

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Honduran boy wins hearts with faith, endurance

By Tim Nicholas

A story of how Baptist missions works began on a road in rural Honduras, early last May as 14-year-old Jose Mendoza-Oseguera rode on the handlebars of a bicycle.

Jose's cousin was pedaling across a road. The cousin saw the gravel truck coming and jumped off, but Jose didn't get out of the way in time. The truck hit the teenager and nearly snuffed out his life.

The accident happened near Juticalpa where Jose's farming family lives. He was rushed with massive internal and external injuries to Tegucigalpa, the capital, where he remained in an acute care hospital for



Nurse Vicki McCall, left, of Clinton, has assumed legal guardianship of Jose Mendoza-Oseguera, 15-year-old Honduran in treatment at the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson.

seven weeks.

Both hips were fractured, his urethra was cut by pelvic fractures, his left leg and buttocks were skinned, and part of the muscle was missing.

"This boy had a bad hit right in the mid-section," said a urologist.

The Honduran orthopedic surgeon was able to set the right hip, but due to all the missing skin and muscle, and because it was in so many pieces, it was not possible to put the left hip in traction. This meant that the broken bones ground together when he was moved, causing horrible pain. Jose screamed when they took him to the whirlpool for the cleansing necessary for his leg wound treatment.

Now that the hip bones have knit, the pain is just about gone. Grafts have been completed. And Jose now faces more surgery to straighten out the left leg. He needs rehabilitation, which is being arranged at Mississippi Methodist Rehabilitation Center in Jackson.

In the meantime, Jose holds court in his room at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center (MBMC).

He's learning English day by day, but he doesn't understand any need to learn to read and write. After all, he says, what does a farmer need that for?

Meantime, nurse Vicki McCall has moved beyond being just Jose's helicopter traveling companion. Mississippi Brotherhood Director Paul Harrell asked Vicki to

be Jose's guardian while in the U.S.

She agreed and took her responsibilities very seriously. She's even in her second semester of Spanish at Mississippi College because of Jose.

"It has been a blessing," she said. "For

replace the one mangled in the wreck back in Honduras. A pediatric patient named David Minga heard about the bike wreck and decided to help.

His sister Becky and friend Eric Thornton pushed David around his neighborhood to raise the money to buy another bike. The bike store sold it for half price.

A number of doctors have donated their time to treat Jose, including Paul Van Landingham, John Purvis, Jimmy Keeton, Dick Weddle, Bill Causey, and Stan Miller. Pediatric dentist Lee Cope did 15 fillings, two extractions, and a root canal, plus whitening the teeth. "That boy is proud of his mouth," said Vicki.

Kent Strum, administrator at MBMC, said the hospital has cooperated with the Brotherhood when called on to help. "We see that as part of our commitment to world missions," he said.

Said Vicki, "(Jose) has enriched my life and that of all others he has touched during his time here. I look forward to seeing what the Lord has planned for Jose upon his return to Honduras... We all need to be needed — and he certainly needed somebody."

A lot of somebodies have given a young injured Honduran boy time, energy, and care to place him well on the road to recovery from a hurt that just wasn't going to go away by itself.

A fund has been set up for those wishing to contribute to Jose's care. For more information, contact Kent Strum at Baptist Medical Center, 1225 North State Street, Jackson, MS 39202. Telephone: (601) 968-1000.

The chain that saved a life

Jose's orthopedic surgeon in Tegucigalpa was Saul de Larios. His wife, Lillia de Larios, contacted Earl Elkins of Laurel, who lives in Tegucigalpa as fieldside coordinator for the Mississippi-Honduras Baptist Missions Partnership.

Elkins called Baptist layman Mackie Davis of Hattiesburg, who assists in the stateside coordination of medical-dental missions projects. Davis called Paul Harrell, director of the Mississippi Baptist Brotherhood Department.

Paul called Baptist layman and surgeon Greg Fiser, vice-president of the Mississippi Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship (BMDF), and asked him if he knew any doctors in New Orleans where Jose might be transported for care.

Fiser said if they could get Jose into Mississippi Baptist Medical Center (MBMC), he would coordinate the need for doctors.

Kent Strum, MBMC administrator, agreed to admit Jose.

Bob Holifield of Laurel, a BMDF doctor, told Baptist layman and federal Judge Charles Pickering of Laurel about the situation.

Pickering phoned Baptist layman Andy Taggart of Jackson, Gov. Kirk Fordice's chief of staff, who made contact with the Mississippi Air National Guard.

The Air Guard agreed to go to New Orleans to pick up Jose after the Honduran airline SAHSA brought him to the U.S.

Fiser then called Vicki McCall of Clinton, a member of the Mississippi Baptist Nursing Fellowship. He asked her to go with the Air Guard helicopter to pick up Jose.

Jose arrived in Jackson on June 25, 1993.

PLO wants religious sites

The September 1993 peace accord that was hammered out between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) has resulted in a geographic dispute that engulfs a number of religious sites in the area surrounding Jericho on the West Bank, over which the PLO will be granted self-rule when the accord takes effect. Palestinians are insisting that Jericho includes the historic site of Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River, Nabi Moussa (legendary burial site of Moses), and Quruntul monastery (traditional location of Jesus' temptation by Satan). Israel set the Jericho boundary at 20 square miles, even though Israel's civil administration previously defined the area as 117 square miles. The additional area demanded by the PLO would give Palestinians valuable economic features, such as river access and popular tourist attractions. No resolution to the disagreement is in sight as the date nears for turning Jericho over to the Palestinians, who have begun training their own police force.

Tips for wrecking ministry

Tired of succeeding in your ministry, achieving goals, and making a difference? Chip Alford, in *Facts and Trends*, published by the Baptist Sunday School Board, quotes international management consultant Van Oliphant of Memphis State University on sure-fire ways to guarantee failure:

- Develop a know-it-all attitude.
- Refuse to delegate.
- Disregard peer relationships.
- Submerge yourself in details and trivia.
- Procrastinate.
- Forget to balance production and people.
- Refuse to share success.
- Blame subordinates for failure.

On the other hand, Oliphant believes true leaders must possess five essential qualities: high "frustration tolerance," credibility, respect, ego under control, and knowledge of the difference between efficiency and effectiveness.

Looking back . . .

10 years ago

Bivocational pastor/police chief Bill Lott of Ruleville is killed in a collision with a fire truck while responding to an emergency call near Doddsville. He had been pastor of Bethel Church, Sunflower Association, for 10 years.

20 years ago

Northcrest Church, Meridian, with an average Sunday School attendance of 50 people and a Lottie Moon Offering gift of \$31 last year, exceeds its lofty \$200 Lottie Moon goal this year by giving a total of \$423.05.

50 years ago

"Are they praying for us at home?" is the first line of "A Soldier's Plea," a poem printed in *The Baptist Record* to kick off a campaign of prayer for American soldiers fighting in World War II.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

The wisdom of Solomon

The collecting of proverbs is a noble achievement. For the most part they ring true with life's experiences and you have a tendency to remember them. Usually there is a moral meaning or wise counsel for the hearer. They may be attributed to a certain sage but mostly proverbs are the wit and wisdom of many.

Not long after the printing press was invented there was the publishing of proverbs in almanacs such as the "John Ploughman's Almanack." England was a seedbed of proverbs which were born in a nightmare of perplexity and raised at the grinding stone. Charles Spurgeon collected them for his many publications at the rate of one a day for 20 years. Some were humorous: "He that hath rent his trousers had better sit still."

"One log does not burn well by itself."

Some were just practical:

"There's no profit in teaching a pig to play the flute."

"There's always water where a calf is drowned."

In the World Almanac you can read of economics, education, national defense, who scored the most field goals in the NFL last year, and other vital statistics, but

no proverbs. We did not outgrow the value of proverbs, but some ancient editor decided we had enough.

Preachers, educators, and writers have long collected and preserved proverbs. They can provide a spark of intelligence to a dull page; hence this article. I grew up on proverbs. Both my parents quoted them often and my first pastor, Dan Moulder, could make them up as he traveled. The "idle mind" being the "devil's workshop" was quoted most often. Papa spoke in proverbs like "haste makes waste" or "a rolling stone gathers no moss," and emphasized in my teenage years that "a fool and his money are soon parted." I hated to tell him that I had already discovered this truth.

J.B. Gambrell, first editor of *The Baptist Record*, collected, collated, and made up some of the finer proverbial statements:

"It is not more harness we need, but more horse."

And the Dutch proverb: "Too soon old, too late schmart."

Doug Brouwer recalls an "embarrassingly self-serving proverb for pastors: 'Always appoint people who earn a lot more than you to the finance

committee.'"

Of course, Solomon offers us a rich vein of proverbs, and in Proverbs 25:1, wrote: "These also are proverbs of Solomon which the men of Hezekiah, king of Judah copied." Thus, we have the wit and wisdom of thousands of years. There is no real systematic arrangement in them, but there is expressed a basic concept:

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."

Reading the book of Proverbs is like receiving an education at the feet of the masters.

Other proverbs from life's pages will shake you and perhaps be a bit too personal:

"A full cup needs a steady hand" means that prosperity is not easily endured.

"A cheerful wife is the joy of life," apparently written by a man.

"A good goose may have an ill gosling," means that good people can have wayward children.

"A hen with one chick seems mighty busy," means much fuss about a little task can be presented as if you were doing 10 times as much work.

And, "When an ignorant man knows himself to be ignorant, he is no longer ignorant."

Pain: The gift nobody wants

Editor's Note: Paul Brand is a world-renowned surgeon and leprosy specialist. Now in semi-retirement, Brand recently completed a term as international president of the Christian Medical and Dental Society. Twenty years of pioneering work among leprosy patients in India earned Brand the Order of the British Empire. Here, Brand answers questions about his book, *Pain: The Gift Nobody Wants*, coauthored with Philip Yancey (Zondervan Publishing House, 1993).

(ZPS) — What is pain and how is it communicated?

Ironically, the organ the body trusts to interpret the world lives in a state of solitary confinement. Ensnioned in an opaque skull, the brain never "sees" anything. All sights, sounds, smells, and other sensations that define life come to the brain indirectly; detected in the extremities, escorted along the nerve pathways, and announced in the common language of nerve transmission. Of the many nerves in the human body, only the 12 cranial nerves bypass the spinal cord with a hotline to the brain.

This basic awareness of how the brain works — isolated, it constructs a "best guess" inner picture to interpret the outer world — clar-

ified my thinking about pain. I learned that pain is not out there, but rather "in here," inside the skull. Pain is a sensation most of us flee rather than seek. Perhaps for this reason, pain paradoxically seems like something done to us; though in reality we have done it to ourselves, manufacturing the sensation. Whatever we might conceive of as "pain" occurs in the mind.

At the cellular level the pain network crackles ceaselessly with information, most of which never achieves the rank of conscious pain because our bodies handle the signals appropriately. Sensors in my bladder continually report on distension, and sensors on the surface of my eye report on lubrication. If I respond by going to the bathroom and by blinking regularly, these will not become pain; but if I deliberately ignore their gentle reminders for a few hours, I'll feel excruciating pain. The health of the body depends largely in its attentiveness to the pain network.

What are pain intensifiers?

I use the term "pain intensifiers" for those responses which heighten the perception of pain within the conscious mind. I learned of these firsthand in my hospital room when I finally

agreed to let a surgeon remove my troublesome gall bladder. Confined to a private, sterile room, entangled in a web of tubes and wires, the object of knowing glances and whispered conversations, the patient feels trapped and alone. In this alien atmosphere, pain thrives. These intensifiers — fear, anger, guilt, loneliness, helplessness — may have more impact on the overall experience of pain than any prescription drug I might take.

What is the relationship between pleasure and pain?

Each square inch of skin contains thousands of nerves for pain and cold and heat and touch, but not a single pleasure cell. Pleasure emerges as a by-product, a mutual effort by many different cells working together in what I call "the ecstasy of community." Pleasure, like pain, takes place in the mind, and even more than pain is an interpretation only partly dependent on reports from the sense organs. Nothing ensures the same experience will prove pleasurable for two different people: sounds that enrage a teenager at a rock concert may produce in her parents something akin to pain.

Increasingly I have become aware of the curious intertwining of pain and pleasure. Remarkably,



THE FRAGMENTS

Billy Graham and North Korea

North Korea has to be the "closed society" of the world today. Recently Billy Graham made his second visit there in the past two years. Kim Il Sung, the ruling patriarch, remains suspicious of anything that threatens the hermit kingdom. He rules with an iron fist. Pictures of President Kim and life-size statues dominate the capital city of Pyongyang.

At one time North Korea was the center of Christianity in Asia. Strong churches with a virile missionary spirit were scattered across the nation. Even in 1950 when American forces raced to the Yalu River, the churches were packed with thankful worshippers. Many missionaries lived in Pyongyang prior to the Korean War, and a school for missionary children operated in the city. Graham's wife Ruth graduated from this school in 1930.

Graham was politely received by President Kim. The North Koreans and their leadership want to move "beyond the rhetoric of the Cold War and find a permanent solution to the problems that separate us," said Graham.

Once, I stood on the 38th parallel and through a powerful telescope gazed into North Korea. My prayers mingled with the prayers of thousands of Koreans who prayed for an openness to preach the gospel. It is encouraging to know the door cracked open just a bit.

the body can adjust the level of perceived pleasure as an incentive to meet a particularly urgent need. In India I once experienced severe salt deprivation after perspiring all day in an operating room with no cooling system. I had painful abdominal cramps. Suspecting the

cause, I forced myself to drink a tumbler of water into which I had stirred two teaspoonsfuls of salt. To my amazement the drink tasted delicious, like nectar. My acute physiological need had altered my perception so that drinking brine truly gave me intense pleasure.

Billy Graham is probably the only foreigner to preach in North Korea since 1950. More than 600,000 North Koreans fled the communist regime in the war and most of them were Christians. Many settled in Seoul, where today they have the largest Presbyterian church in the world and the largest Methodist church. In fact, they have the largest church in the world there. The Yido Church has about half a million members and has an extensive ministry in Korea and Japan. Many of the 600,000 are very old now, and hunger to see their native land before they die.

Meanwhile, they continue to pray for an open door to preach the gospel. It is encouraging to know the door cracked open just a bit.

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House bill seen as threat to home, private schools

WASHINGTON (BP) — Nearly all home-schooling parents may lose the freedom to teach their children if an education bill pending in Congress becomes law, the country's leading home school attorney has warned.

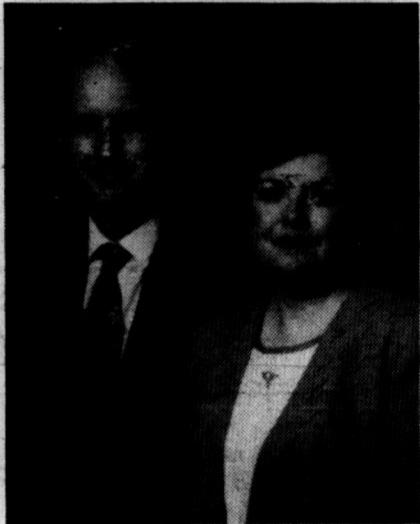
The House of Representatives is scheduled to vote Feb. 24 on reauthorization legislation which may be interpreted to require

home school parents, as well as private school teachers, to be certified by the state.

Such a requirement would be "an effective ban on home education for more than 99% of all home schoolers," said Home School Legal Defense Association President Michael Farris in a Feb. 15 written analysis.

The language also could cripple

Mississippi native appointed by Home Mission Board



Mike and Ellisha Tabb

Mississippi native Ellisha Tabb was appointed to mission service by the Home Mission Board in January.

Tabb will work in St. Louis, Mo., in family and church service. She will work with her husband, Mike, who will be a church planter apprentice.

A native of Terry, Tabb is a graduate of Mississippi State University and the University of Louisville in Kentucky. She has been serving as volunteer coordinator for flood relief for the St. Louis Metro Baptist Association since September of 1993.

The Tabbs have two children, Timothy and Collin.

Relief officials proud that state unit met challenges

By William H. Perkins Jr.

Mississippi Baptists' disaster relief unit rolled home from the Delta Feb. 21 with a truckload of records and heightened confidence in its capabilities.

"The unit has been out five continuous weeks since the Los Angeles earthquake response, and that is a record. We served over 11,600 meals on one day (Feb. 5 in Los Angeles), and that is a record," said Paul Harrell, director of the Brotherhood Department at Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

The tractor-trailer was redeployed from California to Cleveland (Miss.) on Feb. 13 to help feed victims of the disastrous ice storm that had just swept across the northern portion of the state.

Tens of thousands of Mississippians are still awaiting electricity and other utility services, and about 150 Baptist volunteers remain in the area even though the flagship feeding unit is gone after supplying nearly 35,000 meals.

A Baptist disaster relief crew is utilizing the gas-fired kitchen facilities at Oakhurst Church in Clarksdale, which is one of a number of urban and rural areas that are still almost 100% without power. A volunteer Baptist unit from Bolivar, Tenn., is also working in the area.

While the 18-wheel mobile

kitchen rests at its storage facility at Central Hills Baptist Retreat near Kosciusko, disaster relief officials are assessing the effectiveness of the unit for extended, multi-disaster responses.

"These two disasters gave us the opportunity to test our capabilities. Overall, I am very pleased with the way Mississippi Baptists responded to one of the most unique challenges we have had," Harrell said.

The past five weeks indicate that Mississippi Baptists have a very good response network, thanks primarily to the flexibility of the volunteers on the task force, Harrell pointed out.

"There is a sensitivity among Mississippi Baptists for people in need, and there is a real enthusiasm to help those people," he said.

Harrell also gave credit to the state's Baptist associations and individual churches, reporting that they played a "major role" in support of the Brotherhood-coordinated effort.

A call for volunteers to help with cleanup in the Delta has been issued (see box), Harrell said, and financial contributions continue to be a most pressing need.

To make a contribution or to volunteer for service, contact the Brotherhood Department, MBCB, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800.

Works crews are still needed in at least four areas of the state to help clean up after the ice storm. Those who wish to volunteer should form a work team of six to 10 persons and contact the Brotherhood Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, (601) 968-3800, for a suggested work site and contact person.

many religious schools.

"We look at it as a blatant power-grab," said Gary Deedrick, administrative assistant for the American Association of Christian Schools. "We have not minded the government having some say-so in our physical plant," but when it tries to dictate on personnel matters, the government has "crossed a line which we feel like government has no business" crossing, he said.

Probably less than 1% of the teachers in about 1,000 AACs schools are state certified, Deedrick said from his office in

Kansas City, Mo.

An amendment by Rep. George Miller, D.-Calif., to The Elementary and Secondary Education Act, H.R. 6, mandates each state seeking federal funds must provide assurance it "will require each local educational agency within the state to certify that each full time teacher in schools under the jurisdiction of the agency is certified to teach in the subject area to which he or she is assigned." The requirement will take effect after July 1, 1998.

The measure defines school as a "nonprofit day or residential

school" which provides education. The word "nonprofit" is not included in the definition in current law, Farris wrote.

The addition of "nonprofit" clarifies the "intent of this law is to add all forms of private education to the federal definition of school," Farris wrote.

In the Education and Labor Committee, Rep. Dick Armey, R-Texas, offered an amendment exempting private, religious, and home schools, but it failed on a party-line vote. All Democrats on the committee opposed Armey's (See H.R. 6 on page 10)

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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Three couples with Mississippi ties appointed by Foreign Mission Board

Three couples with Mississippi ties were among 45 people named missionaries by the Foreign Mission Board Feb. 8 at Red Lane Church in Powhatan, Va. They were Deborah and John D. Dorr, Leann and H. Danny Rollins, and Laura and Brian S. Harper.

The Dorrs will be assigned as representatives to Lebanon but will live in Larnaca, Cyprus, where he will direct the Baptist Center for Mass Communication and they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Recently he attended Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky. They are members of St. Matthews Church in Louisville.

Born and reared in Tiberias, Israel, Mrs. Dorr, the former Deborah Lindsey, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Lindsey of Moore, Okla. She considers Norman, Okla., her hometown and First Church there her home church.

She received the bachelor of science degree in psychology from William Carey College in Hattiesburg.

They have two children: Philip Lawrence, born in 1989; and Lauren Elizabeth, 1992.

The Rollinses will live in south Brazil, where he will start and develop churches and they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Since 1989 he has been pastor of Westwood Church, Westlake, La.

Born in Memphis, Tenn., Rollins is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Rollins of Olive Branch. While growing up he also lived in Olive Branch. He considers Olive Branch his hometown.

He received the bachelor of arts degree from the University of Mississippi in Oxford and the master of divinity degree from Mid-America Seminary,

Memphis.

He was minister of youth at First Church, Nesbit.

Also born in Memphis, Mrs. Rollins, the former Leann Crawford, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Irby Crawford of that city.

She was a counselor at Hernando (Miss.) High School and a college recruiter for Christian Brothers College in Memphis.

They have four children: Christopher Daniel, born in 1982; Brittney Leann, 1984; Bethany Kate, 1988; and Dana Lee, 1989.

The Harpers have been named representatives of Cooperative Services International, a Southern Baptist aid organization. They will live in north Africa, where they will use their skills in development of CSI-related projects in developing nations.

Since 1992 he has been pastor/coordinator of the Hispanic congregation of Dawson Memorial Church, Birmingham, Ala.

Born in Centerville, Harper is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry J. Harper Jr., Southern Baptist workers in Ecuador and formerly in Colombia. While growing up he also lived in Bogota, Colombia; Cincinnati, Ohio; San Jose, Costa Rica; and Mason, Ohio. He considers Bessemer, Ala., his hometown and Dawson Memorial Baptist his home church.

Born in Bessemer, Mrs. Harper, the former Laura Bailey, is the daughter of the Mr. and Mrs. Ron Bailey of that city. Her father is a Southern Baptist bivocational minister. While growing up she also lived in Chattanooga, Tenn.

They have two children: Christopher Scott, born in 1990; and Rebekah Ann, 1992.



Danny and Leann Rollins



John and Deborah Dorr



Brian and Laura Harper

Youth problems foreseen...

Gambling: decade's fastest U.S. growth industry

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (ABP) — Roll the dice in America today and casino gambling will come up the winner almost every time.

Gambling is predicted to be the fastest-growing industry in America in the 1990s, and casinos account for an overwhelming proportion of that growth.

The amount of money Americans wagered legally in casinos grew from \$144.8 billion in 1987 to \$240.5 billion in 1991 — a 66% increase in six years.

The second major growth in the gambling industry has come in the spread of state lotteries, jumping from revenues of \$13.1 billion in 1987 to \$21 billion in 1991 — a 60% increase.

Currently, Americans place about \$330 billion annually in legal bets of all kinds. That generates revenue of \$30 billion for the gambling industry after winners are paid.

Only two states — Utah and Hawaii — ban all forms of gambling. Casino gambling currently is allowed in 21 states, and 15 others have casino legislation pending.

This phenomenon prompted the New York Times to declare

that "the sin is indeed gone from the nation's gaming industry, obliterated by the notion of mass entertainment."

The paper reported that an intense focus on the moral issue of abortion has sidetracked the traditional critics of gambling. Further, the growth has been possible because some church groups have become dependent upon gambling for revenues themselves, the paper said.

Expansion speeds up

"The spread of commercial gambling is inevitable," according to David Johnston, author of a book about casinos called *Temples of Chance*.

"By the end of this century almost every place in America where it has not already arrived will join the trend."

Johnston, an investigative reporter for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, writes: "Many Americans want to gamble, and the few who object on moral grounds cannot sway elections anymore except in places like Utah."

The gambling industry has become more sophisticated and

successful as it has moved from the hands of organized crime into the leadership of American business giants, Johnston contends.

Corporations move in

"Bad as the mob is, having corporate America dominate the casino business is worse," he writes. "The mob was limited to Nevada, and its own incompetence at managing a business as complex as casinos limited its profits."

But corporate America "has access to skilled managers and it can employ the same marketing

clout that sells dandruff shampoo to push casinos and create an appearance of respectability. But licensing an enterprise does not change its nature."

Kids and gambling

The growth of the gambling industry also has fueled an increase in another statistic — the number of teenagers who are compulsive gamblers.

Time magazine reported in 1991 that of the estimated 8 million compulsive gamblers in America, 1 million are teenagers making legal and illegal bets.

"Just 10 years ago, teenage gambling did not register even a blip on the roster of social ills," the magazine said. "Today gambling counselors say an average of 7% of their caseloads involve teenagers."

The increased availability of gambling venues hits youth hardest, *Time* said, because studies show teens are at least twice as likely as adults to become problem gamblers.

One New York study found eight times as many gambling addicts among college students as among adults.

Morality argument losing ground as gambling expands across U.S.

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (ABP) — Although Baptists most often oppose casino gambling on moral grounds, recent trends show that argument alone no longer pays off.

The moral argument is a "valid position" but "has become more and more a minority position over time," said William Eadington,

professor of economics at the University of Nevada and director of the Institute for the Study of Gambling and Commercial Gaming.

"It is a valid position that does not carry as much weight as it used to," he continued. "Certainly it has been a little surprising that the South has become a hotbed of growth for casino gaming. However, the very clear trend in the United States and throughout the world right now is that gaming is becoming much more acceptable."

The declining influence of appealing to morality is confirmed by sociologist John Dombrink and political scientist William Thompson, authors of the book *The Last Resort*.

The authors have studied 10 major campaigns to legalize casino gambling in the United States since 1976. In every case, religious groups opposed casinos.

"Church activity as such is not a veto factor. It alone will not defeat a campaign for casinos," they report. "But churches are a force that can trigger other veto factors."

The moral argument, in combination with other factors, can be effective in stopping casinos, Dombrink and Thompson write.

For example, religious groups in Detroit formed an "unholy alliance" with horse racing interests to defeat a casino proposal in 1981.

"To me, gambling is gambling, whether you're talking about horse racing, bingo, casino gambling, or taking a chance on a turkey," said Claude Witt, executive director of the Temperance League of Kentucky and a Southern Baptist layman.

"It causes human desperation. It victimizes the poor. It contradicts social responsibility. It produces the wrong attitudes toward work. It's a sophisticated form of stealing."

"We are being asked to trust an industry to expand that is designed to profit at the expense of others," he said. "They will take money from both those who

can afford the loss and those who cannot — with the same uncaring financial success for their corporations."

Legalizing casino gambling has three negative effects on a community, Witt testified: "It changes the community's character, changes the traditional culture and virtue, and changes the legitimate tourism and natural attractions."

Those sentiments are echoed by Paul Jones, executive director of the Christian Action Commission, which recently lobbied unsuccessfully against casinos in Mississippi.

Government decisions to advance gambling are based on flawed reasoning, Jones said.

"You have to create a high percentage of losers to have a very small number of winners," he explained. "About 85% to 90% of the people are going to have to lose for anyone to win anything."

"The question is: Is it ever a legitimate function of government to legalize anything that makes its citizens losers?"

Among the losers will be existing businesses in the state, Jones predicted. That's why Baptists should combine their moral opposition to casinos with the strength of the business community, he said.

Together, these two forces could prevent the legalization of casinos, Jones suggested.

"In Mississippi, we could only attract a couple of statewide business groups. They heard the other arguments, such as, 'We won't raise your taxes' and 'It's harmless because only the people who participate pay.'"

But Mississippi business leaders have seen a different picture now that the dice are rolling nearby, according to Jones and reports in several Mississippi community newspapers.

"Every dollar spent on gambling is a dollar not spent on legitimate business," Jones said. "When we have finally gotten to the business community in Mississippi,... people are calling up crying and saying, 'We wish we had listened.'"

Casinos bring prosperity, woes to one of poorest U.S. counties

By Connie Davis

Henry Lee of Tunica has met them — tourists from Tennessee and other states visiting his hometown. Until a year ago, a tourist in Tunica was rare. That was before casinos opened.

Lee met one man from Covington (Tenn.) outside a Tunica supermarket. The man had failed to cash a check in the store and stopped Lee. He explained to Lee that he didn't have enough money to get home. Lee loaned him money to buy gasoline.

Another tourist from Tennessee stopped at a Tunica service station owned by Lee's nephew. The man left his car and title in exchange for \$2,000.

Another cash-hungry individual stopped at the station and tried to exchange the battery in his vehicle for cash, Lee said, even though (he) was from out of town.

So gamblers are suffering at their own hands. But they are leaving a lot of money in one of the poorest counties in the nation, Lee agrees. The lifetime resident of Tunica and deacon of First Church, Tunica, has experienced the quandry of many who study the issue — economics versus ethics.

Judge Ted Emanuel of the county Justice Court has viewed

the changes Lee has seen. Emanuel, who along with Lee is a deacon at First Church, said Tunica County has certainly needed the \$600 million investment of some industry.

But he works with families who are not paying their bills because the members are spending incomes at casinos. "We also know many people are cashing their welfare checks to gamble,"

Philip and Jim, members of Gamblers Anonymous chapters in Memphis and Nashville, live with their compulsion daily. They are recovering compulsive gamblers.

Casinos offer "action," Jim said, through its atmosphere which "does the same thing as vodka or beer does for the alcoholic."

Philip reported to The Commercial Appeal, the Memphis newspaper, (that) his chapter had added a second weekly meeting to provide for Tunica casino patrons.

"Gambling can do things to a person who would never think of doing anything wrong," Jim explained. Close friends were shocked to discover he was a compulsive gambler, he noted.

Now he is glad to try to help others by being on call 24 hours a day. He also leads a weekly Gamblers Anonymous meeting in Nashville.

Emanuel said.

"I do know that crime has risen dramatically. Dope trafficking has increased. Robberies have increased. Theft has increased. Burglaries have increased. And auto accidents, including fatalities, have increased," said Emanuel.

The caseloads of those in law enforcement have tripled and quadrupled, he added.

Economic stimulus to local business has not occurred, according to Lee.

"The majority of people who come here don't stop in Tunica, so

it's not any benefit unless they go out there and lose it," he said, referring to losses which are taxed by the county.

Unlike most residents, the casino operators can leave when profits plateau, noted Paul Jones of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission.

The casino operators are not only greedy, but many have been cited for violation of state law, Jones said.

"This is the type of people you get," Jones said.

The gambling is "hurting people," Lee said. After losing savings and even family farms, several people have committed suicide, he reported.

"To me personally it presents a challenge if you look at it from the Christian viewpoint," said Emanuel. Several from the industry had visited First Church, he noted.

Lee agrees the situation includes opportunities for ministry.

"We're going to try to make the best of it and try to influence them," Lee said.

— Excerpted from the Jan. 19, 1994, issue of Tennessee's BAPTIST AND RELECTOR. Davis is a writer for the news-journal.



Churchmen establish scholarship

The Mississippi Singing Churchmen, an organization of ministers of music and other Mississippi Baptist church staff members, has established the "Mississippi Baptist Singing Churchmen Music Scholarship." The scholarship is made available to men and women who have made a public commitment to serve, either full time or bivocationally, in the music ministry of a Southern Baptist church. Applicants must be enrolled in any Mississippi institution of higher learning, and will be awarded on the basis of merit and need. For more information, write the Church Music Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. The Singing Churchmen, established in 1964, ministers through music in the state and in mission ventures around the world. Its leaders are (above, left to right): Graham Smith, director, Church Music Department, MBCB; James Frances, immediate past president; Tom Mercier, secretary; and Randy Cuchens, president.

Senate approves school-prayer amendment offered by Helms

WASHINGTON (ABP) — School districts that prevent constitutionally protected prayer in public schools could lose federal aid under an education bill amendment approved Feb. 3 by the U.S. Senate.

The Senate voted 75-22 to approve the amendment offered by Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., after Helms agreed to add the words "constitutionally protected."

The Helms rider was attached to the Goals 2000: Educate America Act (S. 1150) — the Clinton administration's proposal that would provide more than \$420 million in education funds and establish education goals to be met by the year 2000.

The legal impact of Helms' amendment, if it becomes law, is uncertain; since it would not expand opportunities for school prayer beyond what is already permitted by federal court interpretations of the Constitution.

But opposing senators and

representatives of religious liberty agencies expressed concern about the amendment's practical impact. School officials fearful of losing federal dollars could be pressured into sanctioning more than "constitutionally protected" prayer, they said.

Helms' amendment would deny federal funds to state or local education agencies that prevent participation in "constitutionally protected" prayer in schools by individuals on a voluntary basis."

It also would bar states or local school districts from requiring participation in prayer and from influencing "the form or content of any constitutionally protected" prayer in such public schools."

Helms insisted that his proposal does not require a school district "to do anything in favor of voluntary prayer. It merely must refrain from instituting policies prohibiting voluntary student prayer."

Two Baptist church-state specialists criticized the Helms' amendment.

"Some senators who know better dived under their desks yesterday in their zeal to escape the heat on the issue of school prayer," said James Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee.

Dunn called the Helms amendment unwise and unnecessary.

"It simply would compound

the chaos that already exists in the public schools," he said. "Alas, poor superintendents, principals, and teachers would have their already challenging jobs made more difficult trying to sort out what is 'constitutionally protected' and what is not."

Dunn expressed hope that the House of Representatives "will be more sensitive to the implications of this unfortunate amendment."

Brent Walker, BJC general counsel, agreed that the amendment was unnecessary.

"Students already have the right to pray — privately, even corporately sometimes," he said. "We rarely find schools preventing this kind of prayer."

More often, Walker said, schools "try to exceed the limits of constitutionally protected prayer."

Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, predicted that increased litigation could result if the Helms amendment becomes law.

"Pat Robertson's American Center for Law and Justice and other Religious Right legal-aid groups are likely to try to use this law as a means of harassing public schools," Lynn said.

"That's the last thing our already overburdened public school officials need," he said.

The Christian Life Commission declined immediate comment on the Helms amendment.

NASHVILLE (BP) — Strict federal guidelines now being formulated to oversee colleges with students receiving federal loans and grants pose serious hazards for independent higher education, a Southern Baptist executive has warned.

Stephen P. Carleton, executive director of the Education Commission, said regulations for implementing Title IV, Part H of the Higher Education Amendments of 1992 will radically alter the relationship between the independent college sector and federal and state government.

"Under regulations published in late January in the Federal Register and open for comment until March 21, 1994, our Southern Baptist-related colleges and universities are now in danger of being forced into a compliance which may well be at cross purposes with their mission statements," Carleton said.

"Our mission statements contain concerns for morals, values, and spiritual life that often run counter to the public agenda of both the federal and state governments.

"Our diversity is vital.... Voluntary accreditation has long recognized the value of this diversity."

Carleton said the viewpoint of an entrenched government bureaucracy would be far different. "The sad fact is, none of our Southern Baptist-related colleges could operate in an age of high tuition without the financial assistance our students receive from the government," he explained.

"The Higher Education Act Amendments of 1992 are law," Carleton said, "but what's still pending is how the regulations are applied and what criteria trigger a review by governmental agencies."

"In essence, the new regulations set the stage for the encroachment of a triad of entities into the day-to-day life of our faith-related colleges and universities."

The three entities include state government through agencies called State Post-Secondary Review Entities (Spree's); accreditation bodies now in the process of reorganization; and a federal eligibility and certification process in the U.S. Department of Education.

Carleton said a college could undergo a review when any of 12 complicated and often-redundant trigger criteria are in question. "These triggers include such issues as rates on student loans, failure of the institution to meet standards of financial responsibility or stability, measurement of academic performance of students, compliance with health and safety standards, and a student's potential earning power versus tuition costs.

"According to some who have studied the plan, the first regulations proposed would have triggered even Harvard University on the financial issues," Carleton said.

"Dr. David Warren, the new president of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, said at the annual meeting of NAICU in Washington, D.C., Feb. 2, 1994, that this set of regulations represented the greatest change and challenge to independent higher education in the 25 years he has worked in this area, and I agree with the seriousness of this issue," Carleton said.

In response to letters from college and university presidents in October and November, some changes were made in the regulations, Carleton said.

Carleton is urging Southern Baptist educators and others interested in independent higher education to continue the letter-writing campaigns before the comment period ends March 21.

Letters should be addressed to congressmen and to Secretary of Education Richard Riley or Assistant Secretary David A. Longnecker.

"These letters should detail your concern over the extent to which the regulations go beyond the law. The burden of additional, lengthy reporting and costly site visits will be a drain on the resources of our educational institutions and should be challenged," Carleton said.

Fields writes for the Education Commission.

California feeding units top 1 million meals served

LOS ANGELES (BP) — Southern Baptist mobile feeding units have topped 1 million in total meals provided to earthquake victims in the Los Angeles area since Jan. 17.

The two California-based units remain in operation. One is located at Van Nuys airport, the other at First Church, Fillmore. Both were opened less than 24 hours after the main shock and have operated continuously since then.

The California relief operation resulted in the third-highest total meal count in the history of Southern Baptist disaster relief ministry. The highest count was 2.7 million meals served after Hurricane Andrew struck Florida and Louisiana in 1992. Second-highest was 1.6 million served last summer to victims of flooding in the Midwest.

To date, the effort has involved more than 350 volunteers from 14 states, including many from the Midwest who "returned the favor" to those who came to their aid last year.

At the peak of the operation, disaster relief units from Louisiana,

Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas joined those from California in the Los Angeles area.

"This episode really reflected the depth of the Southern Baptist capacity to respond. We had units ready and willing to take part from as far east as the Carolinas," said Jim Burton of the Brotherhood Commission, who served as national off-site coordinator for the response.

California was a real logistical challenge, Burton added, given the distance of the states with mobile feeding units from the west coast.

"It's a long ride from Mississippi to Los Angeles in a tractor trailer," he said.

The California response also marked a first in that five units from different states were up and operating in one place.

"This allowed the different state units to learn methods of operation from one another and build relationships with those from other states," Burton said. "In the future, we may well have volunteers from different states working on any one unit, so this was a good preview of that."



Capsules

BWA CALLS FOR PRIORITY ON WORLD'S UNEVANGELIZED: LARNACA, Cyprus (BP) — With more than 1.3 billion people yet to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Baptist World Alliance will encourage Baptists around the world to make reaching "unevangelized people" a priority. This call is part of a BWA "blueprint for action" for unevangelized people. It received the support of Baptist and other mission leaders from 30 countries who met in Larnaca, Cyprus, Jan. 20-24, for a "Baptist International Conference on Unevangelized People." Ninety-one percent of Christian missionaries and 94% of missionary budgets are directed to the most evangelized 33% of the world. Because of this, the BWA will encourage Baptist mission societies to look at their missionary personnel and budgets and recruit new people to reach the unevangelized. Sponsored by the BWA, the conference brought together Baptist and other mission leaders to focus on why much of central and northern Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and other regions has not yet heard the gospel.

A BRITISH VICAR WAS SO DRUNK HE FELL OVER: DURHAM, England (EP) — A British vicar who was so drunk that he slurred his words and fell over while presiding over an early morning funeral will be treated for alcoholism, church officials said. David Heron, 44, collapsed during a crematorium service for Tommy Alderson, a miner, and a church warden took over for him. Mourners, who said the vicar referred to Alderson as "our dear departed sister" and sang out of tune at the top of his voice, also noted that the departed "liked a pint," and probably would have found the whole thing amusing. David Jenkins, the Bishop of Durham, apologized for Heron's behavior.

BLACKABY URGES FMB TRUSTEES TO ASK FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE: RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Southern Baptists' goals for overseas missions may insult God if their plans rely only on man's vision, Henry Blackaby told Foreign Mission Board trustees during their February meeting. "Is God being honored in the requests you make?" he asked. "Or does he say, 'Is that all you think I can do?'" Blackaby is director for prayer and spiritual awakening at the Home Mission Board. He has agreed to work part time with the Foreign Mission Board and the Baptist Sunday School Board as a special assistant to each agency's president in the area of spiritual awakening. In his first month of work with the Foreign Mission Board, he has led spiritual renewal meetings with furloughing missionaries, missionary candidates, International Service Corps personnel, and top administrators.

SWAGGART, GORMAN REACH SETTLEMENT: NEW ORLEANS (EP) — Evangelists Jimmy Swaggart and Marvin Gorman have reached a settlement in a long-running lawsuit charging that Swaggart and others defamed Gorman. The case grew out of a battle between Gorman and Swaggart in the 1980s, in which Gorman admitted committing adultery, but said Swaggart spread rumors to destroy Gorman's ministry. Swaggart's ministry was destroyed in 1987, after Gorman obtained pictures of Swaggart outside a seedy motel with a prostitute. Gorman won a \$6.6 million judgment against Swaggart in 1991, but the case has been tied up in appeals court. Attorney Hunter Lundy, who is representing Gorman, said a settlement proposal would be presented to a federal bankruptcy judge.

Mongolian Baptist house church is first to gain legal recognition

ULAN BATOR, Mongolia (BP) — The young Baptist church in Ulan Bator received legal recognition from the Mongolian government Feb. 1 — the first such action in Mongolia's modern history.

The government reportedly denied legal registration applications from as many as 10 other church bodies before granting the Baptist request. Christian groups of any kind have existed for only a few years in the formerly hard-line communist nation bordering China and Russia.

"This is a day of rejoicing!" declared Southern Baptist worker Gary Harthcock in a written message from Ulan Bator, the Mongolian capital.

"Just as God parted the waters for the Israelites, he has parted the waters for us," he said. "He has opened wide the door that was closed for so long. I firmly believe that this act of God is his affirmation that our little group is here at

the right time and at the right place."

The church was scheduled to be formally constituted Feb. 24 in a public service expected to be broadcast on national television.

Meanwhile, government officials already have asked the church to get involved in helping it fight drug and alcohol abuse, a Mongolian social ill.

The church began as a small Bible study in the living room of Harthcock, 74, and his wife, Evelyn. The Southern Baptist couple from Winter Park, Fla., went to the isolated Asian nation in 1992 to teach English.

The Harthcocks developed numerous friendships with Mongols, and their Bible study took off.

"It just keeps growing and growing," said a Hong Kong-based Southern Baptist representative who relates to Harthcock. "They have well over 70 (worshippers) on Sundays now."

Sylvarena Church rebuilds spirit of missions, stewardship after twister

By Shannon T. Simpson

When clocks in Sylvarena stopped at 12:25 a.m. on Nov. 22, 1992, even the devastation of the tornado which leveled the Sylvarena Church structure couldn't daunt the church's membership.

"We never doubted we would rebuild," said Bill James, deacon at Sylvarena.

The night before the tornado tore through Smith and Rankin counties, Sylvarena members had planned, decorated, and cleaned in preparation for the church's 125th anniversary celebration, scheduled for Nov. 23. What they saw the next morning was a total loss. Pews were exposed to sky in the remains of the sanctuary; twisted steel beams and sheet metal lay in a pile where the family life center had been.

The church plant had relocated about four years before the tornado. The new structure was built at a cost of over \$400,000. Members confess there was some dissension over that effort.

"We were about \$5,000 in debt



Sylvarena Church's new worship and education facility.

when that storm hit," said Bill James. "We didn't even know how we were going to meet our building note.... We are better off financially now than we were then.

"We may have caught ourselves building a memorial to God, not an organ to serve him. Maybe he thought we needed to start over."

"Praise the Lord, we'll never see that kind of debt again," said Joe Houston, also a deacon.

The church is now so stewardship-conscious that most of the construction work and all ongoing janitorial work is done by the members themselves.

"That storm was a blessing," said Sylvarena member Barbara James. "We really learned that God would provide."

Josh James, building committee chairman, echoed the sentiment: "That Sunday morning, there were 25 people here, ready to rebuild."

And rebuild, they did.

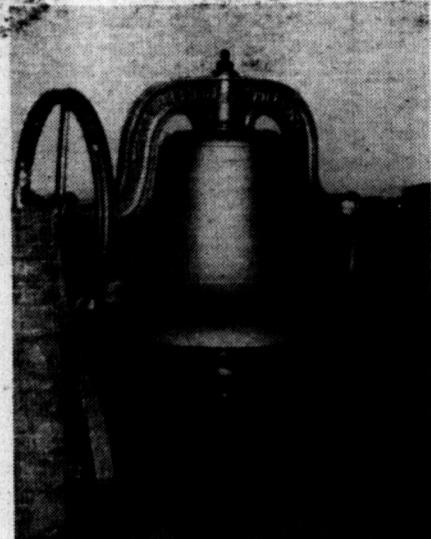
In the aftermath of crisis, Sylvarena built a new sanctuary and pastorage on the sites of those damaged by the 1992 twister. The congregation is now in its fifth week of worship and ministry in the new facilities. There are plans to finish work in July on a 135' X 60' family life center and fellowship hall, to replace its predecessor leveled in the storm.

Add to all that the fact that the 172-member church exceeded its Lottie Moon Offering goal this year by \$1,125, for a total gift of \$11,125. That's almost \$3,000 above what the church's 1992 offering was.

With its gift of \$3,926, the church was also listed among the top 40 on the Baptist Children's Village "Honor Roll of Churches" (list of churches which give \$1,000 or more).

How does a small church like Sylvarena give so much, especially in time of crisis? "When you've got people that tithe, you don't have any problem with offerings," said Josh James.

Added Hueston Adkins, pastor: "This church did not just turn inward in that time of crisis, but



The present structure housing the Sylvarena Church is the fourth home for this bell, mounted at the back of the building as a reminder of the church's commitment to stay at the task of helping spread the gospel. Several hundred yards beyond the bell lie the remains of the former family life center, soon to be rebuilt.

kept its mission spirit, and gave out of poverty — gave so much."

"The church was continually in prayer after the storm," said Bill James, "not specifically for the Lottie Moon Offering, but for thanksgiving. All the other (financial blessings) just came about as a result of those prayers."

"At dawn the day after the storm," said Houston, "I realized I was so happy to see people alive, who I wouldn't have spoken to before. It was very sobering."

Looking to the future, Bill James said he claims 1 Corinthians 2:9 for the church: "We haven't seen anything yet."

With the storm as a point of reference for the Sylvarena community, members of the church wonder how long this "high" will last.

"Hopefully, we'll stay in it from now on," said Barbara James.

"We still don't have our WMU in full force," said Phoebe Sullivan, "but we're already looking forward to Annie Armstrong (offering)."



Hueston Adkins, left, pastor of Sylvarena Church, Smith County, recently presented a check for its Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions to Marjean Patterson, executive director-treasurer of Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union. Sylvarena's 1993 Lottie Moon Offering totalled \$11,125, exceeding the \$10,000 goal set after the church rebuilt in the aftermath of a devastating tornado.

HOUSETOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

February 24, 1994

HouseTops is a supplement to the **Baptist Record** and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER ministry

A SOUTHERN BAPTIST MINISTRY

RIVER MINISTRY CONVOCATION SET

Mississippi Baptists host the second Mississippi River Ministry Convocation March 11-12, 1994, at First Baptist Church of Jackson. The sessions and exhibits will be designed to encourage, inspire and help Directors of Missions, pastors and lay persons sponsor and take part in MRM volunteer mission projects across a seven state area.

Conferences will address 16 areas of missions/ministry. Leader's will come from across the SBC. Models and strategies to meet specific needs will be shared.

Conference topics include "Gambling in the Midst of Poverty," led by Paul Jones and Beth Holmes of the Christian Action Commission; "Community Needs Assessments;" "Crossing Barriers/Cultures to Do Ministry;" "Improving Community Housing;" "New Church Work;" "Storefront Ministries;" and sessions on medical and literacy missions. Jones and Holmes will suggest a future direction for ministry to gamblers.

Keynote speakers are Jerry Clower, Mississippi humorist and Baptist layman, and Don Moore, executive director of Arkansas Baptist Convention.

River Ministry cont. on back

HOUSETOPS is just for ministers
...right?

WRONG!

I discovered articles and
conferences just for me.

For instance, I have made
plans to attend the Mississippi
Baptist Secretaries Conference
(see page 2).

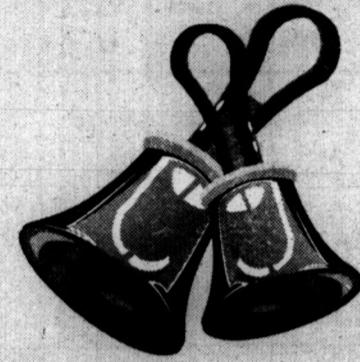


MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST YOUNG RINGERS HANDBELL/CHIME FESTIVAL

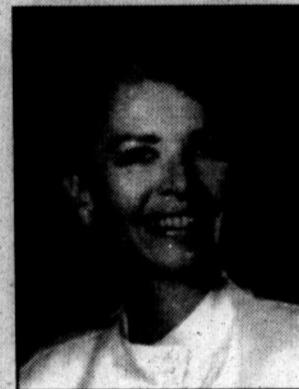
May 14, 1994

Griffith Memorial Baptist Church

5275 Terry Road, Jackson, Miss.



Clinician: VALERIE STEPHENSON
Music Educator/Composer, New Orleans



Valerie has over twenty-five years of music teaching experience with groups from Pre-K through college. Many of these years were spent with the first through eighth grade age groups. She is currently devoting full time to composition and handbell work and also teaches chorus at a local community college. She has a bachelor of music education from Florida State University, a master of music in theory and composition from the University of Wisconsin and is both nationally registered and nationally certified by the Music Educators National Conference. She is currently secretary/treasurer of Area VI AGEHR and directs three handbell groups at Parkway Presbyterian Church in Metairie, La.

1. This Festival is designed for children/youth or mixed choirs of children and youth. The music selected for this festival will be Beginning, Easy, and Easy Medium difficulty. It will be limited to two to three octave range of handbells and/or chimes.
2. To register, complete the registration form and return with appropriate fees to the Church Music Department by May 4. The fee is \$15.00 per choir.
3. Set-up and registration are from 9:00-10:00 a.m. The Festival will conclude by 3:00 p.m. Mass ringing begins at 10:00 a.m. Lunch is on your own, fast food outlets are near.
4. There is no adjudication, but choirs that would like the experience of ringing for others will be allowed 2 1/2 minutes to ring a selection of their choice. This selection should not be one of the mass ringing numbers. Each of these choirs will ring from its mass ringing position.
5. Please prepare well for the Mass Ringing selec-

tions. If your choir does not know a particular piece, please do not ask them to ring it. They may sit and listen. The selections may be ordered from the Baptist Book Store or the suppliers.

They are:

1. *A Simple Celebration*, by Brian Johnson
2 Oct., Code 910100201, *Ring Out! Press*.
2. *Jubilant Fanfare*, by Kevin McChesney
2-3 Oct., Code CGB-141, *Choristers Guild*.
3. *This Little Light of Mine*, arr. Allan Petker
3 Oct., Code 1549, *Agape*.
4. *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*, arr. Arnold Sherman
2-3 Oct., Code 1652, *Agape*.

Contact the Church Music Department to register for this event: (601)968-3800, ext. 3867.

pray this day....

March 1-15, 1994

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Prayer Ministry Office P. O. Box 530 Jackson, MS 39205-0530 Phone: 968-3800, Ext. 3904 Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY		that you will participate in your church's Week of Prayer for Home Missions	that you will set a personal goal for giving to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (for home missions)	for all the people our home missionaries try to reach in their various kinds of work	for home missionaries who work with the homeless	for home missionaries whose work is AIDS-related
for home missionaries who work with fragmented families (for information to use March 6-13, see Royal Service, March, pages 8-23) 6	for home missionaries who administer the World Hunger Fund money sent to the Home Mission Board 7	for home missionaries who minister to military families 8	for home missionaries who work with the non-readers 9	for home missionaries who work with migrants 10	for home missionaries who work with latchkey children 11	for home missionaries who work with the poor 12
for home missionaries who work with victims of substance abuse 13	for the thousands of volunteers who enhance the work of the home missionaries in all these areas 14	for the people who work at the Home Mission Board in Atlanta, planning and implementing the home missions work of Southern Baptists in our land 15	Materials for the Week of Prayer for Home Missions are designed so that we learn about and pray for distinctively Southern Baptist missions as planned through the Home Mission Board. The hope is that our study and our prayer will inspire us in our giving to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (for home missions). National goal is \$40 million.			

April 18-19, 1994
**MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST
SECRETARIES CONFERENCE**
Camp Garaywa

The Mississippi Baptist Secretaries Association gives an opportunity for both growth and fellowship for our secretaries. Through the conferences, they have learned new concepts that have assisted them in better serving our church. In fellowship, they have shared with others who serve in similar capacities. This allows an exchange of ideas and experiences with their peers.

I recommend the Mississippi Baptist Secretaries Association to churches in our state. Your secretaries will find it helpful and valuable.

—Mickey Dalrymple
Pastor, Fairview BC
Columbus, Miss.

To register contact
Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries
Dept. at (601)968-3800 ext. 3905



**We need your
HELPING
HANDS**

To start Homebound and Cradle Roll Departments

Homebound led by James Berthelot, BSSB
Cradle Roll led by Ann Liles, BSSB

Make plans to attend the conference in your area. Tour schedule:

- March 14 9:45-11:45 a.m. FBC, Gulfport
- March 14 7-9 p.m. FBC, McComb
- March 15 9:45-11:45 a.m. Crossgates, Brandon
- March 15 7-9 p.m. Poplar Springs Drive, Meridian
- March 16 9:45-11:45 a.m. FBC, Columbus
- March 17 9:45-11:45 a.m. West Jackson St., Tupelo
- March 17 7-9 p.m. FBC, Oxford

Sponsored by
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
Sunday School Department

Contact Linda Reeves at 968-3800 for more information.

SUMMER STAFFERS NEEDED

Managers of two Mississippi Baptist retreat facilities are seeking college students for summer employment for 1994. These are missions opportunities.

Central Hills Baptist Retreat near Kosciusko, Dan West, manager, needs staffers to begin either June 5 or June 13 for orientation, depending on assignment, through camp cleanup week, July 30-Aug. 5. College age young men are needed to serve as counselors, activity instructors, and operations workers. Activity leadership is needed for horseback riding, riflery, archery, the ropes course, handicrafts, and camp craft skills. American Red Cross certified lifeguards are needed for the swimming pool and at the lake for canoeing activity.

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Frank Simmons, manager, is accepting applications for employment for the 1994 summer staff, according to Frank Simmons, Assembly Manager.

College age applicants who are interested are encouraged to consider this avenue of ministry and service. The assembly begins its summer program on May 14, 1994, and continues through August 6, 1994. The Gulfshore schedule features Senior Adult, Single, Youth, Music, Family and Adult Leadership Conferences. It is hoped that 1994 attendance will be the largest ever for Gulfshore.

Available positions include food services, Red Cross trained lifeguards, housekeeping, registration and office, first aid, and grounds and maintenance.

The assembly provides an interesting program of activities for the staff; and they have the opportunity for service as well as personal spiritual growth and development.

Interested college age students are encouraged to meet with Simmons and West February 28 through March 10 on various college campuses across Mississippi, where they will be interviewing prospective employees. The recruiting schedule is as follows:

Monday	(Feb. 28)	Miss. Delta Community College BSU Delta State BSU Center	11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday	(Mar. 1)	Blue Mountain College Gal'ry Ole Miss BSU Center Northwest Miss. Community College BSU	11:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Wednesday	(Mar. 2)	Miss. State University BSU Center	11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Thursday	(Mar. 3)	Northeast Miss. Community College BSU Itawamba Community College BSU	10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Monday	(Mar. 7)	East Central Community College BSU Miss. College-Rogers Student Center	11:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	(Mar. 8)	Hinds Community College BSU Center Co-Lin Community College BSU Center Southwest Miss. Community College BSU	10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday	(Mar. 9)	Jones County Junior College BSU	11:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Thursday	(Mar. 10)	University of Southern Miss. BSU Center William Carey College, Lawrence Hall	10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

For additional information about an interview or a staff application, contact Simmons at Gulfshore, 100 First Street, Pass Christian, MS 39571; or West at Central Hills Baptist Retreat, P.O. Box 723, Kosciusko MS 39090. Or you may contact the Baptist Student Union director on your campus.



MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST WORLD PARTNERSHIP

The following areas need your help and participation in Alaska:

Construction:

Build a parsonage for Goldstream Valley BC in Fairbanks, during summer of 1994.

Remodel Fellowship Hall for F.B.C. Delta Junction, Alas. for 1 -2 weeks, anytime from June 13 to August 31, (2-4 people).

Help finish a multi-use bldg. at Associational Camp in Fairbanks, Alas. (wiring, sheetrock, insulation work, gen. carpentry, etc.) (max. 30 people at one time)

One to two people with handyman skills for paint-up, clean-up, fix-up for North Star BC, Anderson, Alas. for 1 week, summer of 1994

Insulate and sheet-rock garage, paint-up, fix-up Clearwater Baptist Mission, Delta Junction, Alas., 1 -2 weeks, summer of 1994 (4-6 people)

Put up exterior siding on church building for St. John BC, Fairbanks, Alas. (gen. carpentry skills) (8-10 people) (June, July or August)

Paint-up, fix-up and gen. repair work to Fort Yukon Baptist Mission (4-6 people) June, July or August 1994

Paint-up, clean-up, fix-up existing bldg. inside & out for Goldstream Valley BC, Fairbanks, Alas. (4-6 people) summer of 1994

Build an educational wing to Morning Star BC, Healy, Alas. (3 to 4 crews of 10 each for 10 days to 2 weeks) summer of 1994

Run water lines from Education bldg. to sanctuary for Tok Baptist Mission (2-4 people) for 1 week summer of 1994

Gift of Giving:

Help purchase Russian materials for churches and pastors in far east Russia and Siberia, any amount will help

Help purchase Sunday School material for 50 people for two years until church gets on its feet, North Star BC, Anderson, Alas.

Help purchase 9 turkeys and all the trimmings, including paper supplies for Thanksgiving and Christmas Day meals for community, an outreach ministry of the Tok Baptist Mission

Help with supplies for clown ministry and children's activities for Fort Yukon Baptist Mission

Persons:

One or two people needed to pay their own way to help train BSU Council and lead in BSU Retreats (Fall & Spring) (one could be music leader) March or April '94-'95, or September or October '94-'95 (Retreats are 2 days)

Married couple for supplemental support for BSU Director (2 years minimum) date open at this time (\$1,250 monthly support available) University of Alaska, Fairbanks

Someone to serve in pastor's absence during June Vacation

Partnership Needs cont on back.



Eighth Annual Mississippi Baptists In Broadcasting Workshop

MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS who are involved in broadcasting on radio, television or cable, and those who are interested in getting started in these areas are invited to join us in the Eighth Annual **Mississippi Baptists In Broadcasting Workshop** April 22-23, 1994, Calvary BC, Jackson.

— Farrell Blankenship, Director, Department of Broadcast Services

Workshop Leaders



Ken Anderson



Kurt Brautigam



David Edmonds



Ron Harris



Richard Lister



Mike Myrick



Wayne Pierce



Russ Robinson



Darrel Baergen
Guest Speaker

REGISTRATION FORM

Mississippi Baptists in Broadcasting Workshop **April 22-23, 1994 • Calvary Baptist Church • Jackson**

Name _____
Address _____
Office Phone _____
Church Name _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Home Phone _____

I need _____ reservation(s) for all activities on Friday and Saturday. Cost: \$25 per person \$_____
I need _____ reservation(s) for Friday Awards Banquet only. Cost: \$15 per person \$_____
I need _____ reservation(s) for Saturday Workshop only. Cost: \$15 per person \$_____

REMEMBER: A church bringing four or more people for all activities, cost is \$20 per person.
TOTAL \$_____

Please attach a list of names (include address, city & zip) for whom the reservations have been made.
Reservations are non-refundable after April 8, 1994.

Make check payable to: Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
Mail to: Farrell Blankenship, MBIB, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530

Partnership Needs cont.

Bible School (can be husband/wife) for 1 week to 10 days, June 13-17 or 20-24, 1994 at Morning Star BC, Healy, Alas.

Someone (preferably a couple) to serve Camp Administrator. Work w/Camp Directors to promote, purchase food and see that camp runs efficiently, May 15 thru August 15, Tanana Valley Baptist Asso. Camp, Delta Junction, Alas.

Someone (preferably a couple) to live in pastor's home and conduct services (including VBS for children) from May 16 until about June 30 at Fort Yukon Baptist Mission

Please consider these requests and contact the Partnership Missions Office at 968-3800, ext. 3835 or write P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 if interested or more information is needed.

OOPS!

The dates for the 1994 Mississippi Baptist Convention are incorrect in the church handbook and in the four-page pullout sent recently in the Light Packet. The correct dates are Nov. 1 and 2. It takes place at First Church, Jackson.

River Ministry cont. from front

Music will be under the direction of Missions USA Live and will feature this outstanding drama/music group which has performed across the SBC. Also Sheldon Gooch and Ora Reed, noted soloists from the Jackson area, will sing. The Prairie Dogs, a staff group from the Home Mission Board will perform.

The Convocation begins at 12:30 p.m. on Friday and continues until 12:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Mission leaders and volunteers from the Mississippi River Ministry area states of Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri and Illinois; the Home Mission Board; the Brotherhood Commission; and the Woman's Missionary Union are to attend.

A registration fee of \$20.00 per person will cover the cost of meals, snacks and conference materials (see registration form below.) For other information, please call the Missions Extension and Associational Administration Department (968-3800) at the Baptist Building.

Downtown hotels and motels include Holiday Inn, downtown, 200 E. Amitei Edison Walthall, 225 East Capitol: Coliseum Ramada, 400 Greymont: Red Roof Inn, 828 highway 51 North: Wilson Inn, 310 Greymont. Mention the Mississippi River Ministry Convocation. Some places have offered special group rates. Park in the secured parking lot of First Baptist Church will at the convocation.

Please send \$20 with registration form no later than March 1 to:

**MRM Regional Office
P.O. Box 552
Little Rock, AR 72203**

Registration

MISSISSIPPI RIVER MINISTRY CONVOCATION, MARCH 11-12, 1994

(Deadline: March 1, 1994)

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone _____

Church _____

Address _____

Association _____

Address _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ (\$20 per person)

HouseTops

Letters to the editor

Love letter to Brad

Editor:

My grandson Brad was killed while on a mission trip in Honduras. The grief was so immense that it was only when I began writing Brad a love letter that I began to get a closer glimpse of the blessed life:

Dear Brad: It is difficult for us now to see beyond that vacant chair and your precious heart-broken mother and father. Brad, I knew you were special even in your earliest years; how you could recite with enthusiasm memory Bible verses.

Brad, do you remember when you were 12 years old, the two of us alone, you said to me, "Granny, I don't know what the Lord's will is for my life; would you pray that it will be revealed soon?" Your voice trembling so genuine. "There are so many people and things that are heavy on my heart," you said. Soon afterwards your face beamed with easiness as you began to tell me of your commitment to serve the Lord through the ministry. All these goals coming together like parts of a great puzzle. You were like a magnet, drawing people around you, so compassionate, kind, non-judgmental, full of laughter, and blessed with a good

The Mississippi College
Theatre Department Presents
SHADOWLANDS
February 22-March 1, 1994
Aven Little Theatre
For Ticket Information Call
925-3453

sense of humor.

Your parents often questioned your whereabouts at times, but they knew beyond a shadow of a doubt you were about your Father's business with a testimony about Jesus Christ. Tears and loneliness have become a part of our lives, but when I saw buses filled with people from over the state, parents consoling each other, tears rolling down children's faces as they came to pay their last respect; I knew you had made a difference on this earth. And Brad, when the Lord calls me home, I can't wait to hear you say, "Hey, Granny, I love you so... much," with that familiar outstretched hand and hug. "Let me show you around!" Love, Granny

Wilma Boatner
Florence

Proud of native state

Editor:

The Baptist Record reaches us about a week after the publication date, so we are able to keep up with what is happening back home among Mississippi Baptists. We received the Feb. 3 issue on Feb. 10.

Naturally we have been interested in the coverage given to the unfortunate accident suffered by a medical-dental volunteer group from Mississippi. We regret very much the suffering and loss they experienced. As soon as our pastor in Tela, who works in the hotel where the group was staying, called us, Glenna and I drove to Tela to be with the group. Before leaving for the hospital, I called Joyce Harms, our mission business manager, and Tom Canady, a colleague who lives in San Pedro

Sula, to alert them of the crisis that had developed.

It was a very sad experience to see those with whom we have worked in the past in the condition they were in. It was obvious something had to be done. Doctors and nurses with the group who were not injured were caring for the wounded. Arrangements had already been made to evacuate the seriously wounded to a hospital in San Pedro Sula by helicopter. The physicians in charge at the Tela hospital asked me to accompany Bradley Boatner's body to San Pedro Sula to a funeral parlor that was qualified for preparing him to be sent to the USA. Delton Moore of Pearl accompanied me. The Tela Red Cross provided the ambulance. Early the next morning I called the Brotherhood and the Foreign Mission Board offices to inform them about what had happened.

I want to publicly recognize the wonderful cooperation of my two colleagues, Joyce Harms, who spent all the following day in communication with the U.S. Embassy, and to Canady, who spent the day looking after the injured and arranging for their hospitalization in a good private clinic in San Pedro Sula. Their cooperation, the response of the U.S. Embassy personnel, and that of Mississippi Baptist Convention Board leaders, and the Mississippi governor's and senators' offices combined to make a sad experience into a successful evacuation operation. Tom Canady, Frank Harrison, and I later accompanied the group at the airport to await their departure.

The personnel of the Mississippi Air National Guard MedEvac

Unit were superb in their attention to the group and efficient in their operations. I was proud as a native Mississippian and more so as a Baptist to see how my state responded so quickly and compassionately. There were several Baptists among the unit's personnel, including Jimmy Street of Calvary Church, Jackson, and some with family ties in my home county, Jeff Davis.

We join the Boatner family in their grief for the untimely death of their son. We also thank God for the wonderful way those who were injured are recuperating. May they all soon be whole again. We love the members of this group and appreciate the sacrificial service they came to give in Honduras.

Stanley D. Stamps, missionary
El Progreso, Honduras

for some, maybe weeks.

One blessing from this disaster is that many people are realizing that life goes on without TV, and instead of make-believe characters, life is filled with real people with real problems. A few are discovering board games and family life. What a wonderful opportunity to read the Good Book or a good book, to just sit by the fire-side with the family to chat. We could reinvent family time.

I would challenge you to set aside a full week for a "TV Black-out." Parents may need to plan ahead for family things to do and maybe a special award would be available for the kids who abstained from TV for the whole week. Our TVs keep us from house-to-house fellowships and many times take up the time we should have set aside for daily devotions.

I don't know about you, but I'm sick of sensationalized news and sleazy prime time television.

It may be hard to kick the habit, but, I dare you! You set the dates.

Becky Nicholson
Clarksdale

Reinvent family time

Editor:

Right on!! Let's turn off those TV sets. We here in Clarksdale have just experienced a disastrous ice storm which knocked out our electrical power for days — and

LifeAnswers

Ron Mambower, Ed.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

I come home at night and immediately begin ingesting anything I can find. I will eat and eat until I go to bed. How can I stop?

At first glance, one could say you have an obsessive compulsive disorder when it comes to food. This may be true and if this is the case, I would look for a therapist and discuss this in more detail. However, I suggest you look at your schedule and eating habits. First of all, did you eat anything during the day? It is essential that we take time to eat. Our bodies need nutrition, and if we starve it, the body sends "feed me" signals. Secondly, do you take time to sit and eat a balanced meal when you come home? Do you eat enough to fill up? Relax when you eat, and don't eat on the run. Finally, keep a schedule of your habits. Do you eat because you are bored? Get a glass of water and keep it with you. Do you eat the wrong foods? Discipline yourself to eat fruits and snacks low in fat (like plain popcorn or some forms of cereal). Give yourself permission to snack, and have a plan. If you "fail to plan, then plan to fail."

It has been two years since my mother's sister died. My mother

still goes to the cemetery, and she weeps whenever her sister's name is mentioned. Shouldn't she be over this by now?

Grief is one of those strange emotions about which we do not talk that much. It is one of those experiences that is not easily defined because each person experiences it differently.

— Does your mother think about death all the time?

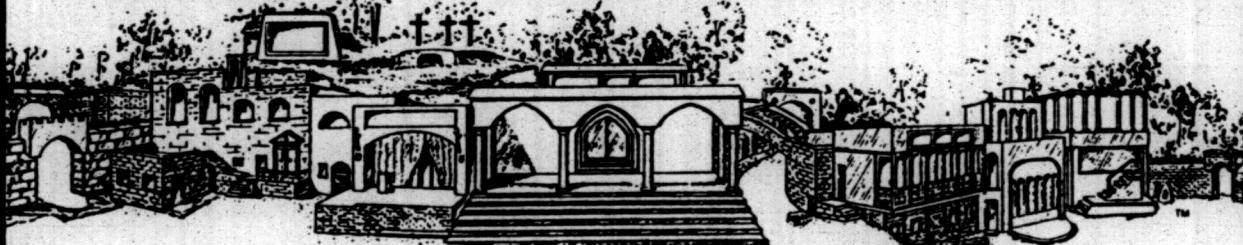
— Is she not sleeping or eating at all, or is she sleeping or eating too much?

— Does she sit in her house and do nothing?

If any of these are occurring, there may be depression. There could be anger, guilt, or hurt associated with the death. Normal grief lasts an average of 12 to 24 months. Visiting a grave or weeping are not bad signs, and may be your mother's way of dealing with her loss. Talk to her about what the cemetery visits and the weeping do for her. Allowing her to express her sorrow may ease the sense of duty. Grief is an individualized expression that can take many forms, and expressing it is much better than closing it off. In the Bible, 1 Thessalonians 4:13 tells us not to "grieve as those who have no hope."

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name and address not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

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The story of the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ has been celebrated for 27 years at The Great Passion Play. Over 5 million people have witnessed this elaborate production at Eureka Springs, Arkansas.

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Exp. Date _____ Signature _____ Name _____

Phone _____ Address _____ City, State, Zip _____ mbr

Mail to: The Great Passion Play, PO Box 471, Eureka Springs, AR 72632. Allow 3-4 weeks delivery.

Just for the Record

An Area Media Library Basic Classification Conference is scheduled for March 5, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the Canaan Church, Lowndes Association. Kathy Sylvest, archivist and media library consultant for the Louisiana Baptist Convention, will lead the conference. A light lunch will be served. There is no charge, but reservations are requested. Call Margaret Perkins, TACMO director, Lowndes Association, (601) 327-1630.

First Church of Sharon, Laurel, will host a one-day crusade with Rick Gage, youth evangelist, on March 6, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Nelson Crozier is pastor.

The Mississippi Baptist Medical Center offers the following programs (and their contact or information numbers): "Smoke Stoppers," to stop smoking or remain smoke-free (968-1712); "Early Pregnancy: The First Five Months," \$10 for two sessions (968-1406); Multiple Sclerosis Seminar and Luncheon (968-1766); Pediatric Pre-Op, 6 p.m. every Monday, to teach children what to expect from surgery (Angela Rieves, Pediatric Unit); Asthma-non, support group for

adults and children with asthma, third Monday of each month (353-6262); Arthritis Seminar/Luncheon, second Mondays (968-1766); Breast Cancer Support group, 6 p.m., third Mondays, (968-3090); H.O.P.E. grief support group, 6 p.m., third Thursdays, (968-3090); Post-Polio support group, 1-3 p.m. Feb. 26 (968-1766).

The 1953-54 class of Mississippi Woman's College, Hattiesburg (now William Carey College), is trying to locate former class members. Anyone who has information on Mamie Pigott Moak is asked to telephone Donna Wheeler, 1-800-962-5991, ext. 167.

Emmanuel Church, Raton, N.M., is presently in need of donated pews for its sanctuary. The church can provide transportation for the pews. Contact Ray Hodges, pastor; Emmanuel Baptist Church, 900 S. 5th St., Raton, NM 87740; telephone (505) 445-8373.

An organ dedication service will be held at Center Ridge Church, Yazoo City, Feb. 27 at 2:30 p.m. Performing in recital on the new organ will be Don and

Patsy Simpson of Jackson. Bryan Abel is pastor.

The Third Annual Spring Bible Conference will be held at Goodyear Church, Picayune, March 13-16. Speakers will include Pat Porter, evangelist; Landrum Leavell; James Messer, evangelist; Larry Robertson, pastor; Moody Adams, evangelist; John Brock, pastor; and Jerry Swimmer, evangelist. Ed Lane will have charge of the music. Arlis F. Grice is pastor.

Focus on the Family will present "A Generation at Risk" March 28, 7 p.m., at the Trade Mart on the Mississippi State Fairgrounds in Jackson. Bob DeMoss will be the speaker. American Family Association is sponsor for this event. Call (601) 844-8888 for more information.

Staff Changes

Cleary Church, Florence, has called Steve Parten as minister of youth effective Jan. 9. A native of Pearl, he received his education at the University of Southern Mississippi. He previously served at Star Church, Star.



Parten

He previously served as minister to youth at Bayou View Church, Gulfport.

Dennis E. Dunn has resigned as pastor of Eastside Church, Pearl, effective Feb. 20. He will assume the duties as pastor of East Shore Church, Harrisburg, Pa. on Feb. 27. Dennis previously served churches in Meridian, Brookhaven, and Foxworth.

Richard A. Strebeck has been called to Millbrook Church, Millbrook, Ala., as minister of education/youth effective Jan. 10. A native of Pearl, he received his education at Mississippi College and Southwestern Seminary.



Strebeck

Jeff Holeman has accepted the position of minister of youth and activities at First Church, Kosciusko, effective Feb. 13. A native of Yazoo City, he is a graduate of the University of Mississippi and New Orleans Seminary.



Holeman

Revival Dates

West Corinth (Alcorn): March 6-9; services, 7 p.m.; Bill Bozeman, Mobile, Ala., evangelist; Brad Jones, Meridian, music; Gary A. White, pastor.

Salem Heights, Laurel: March 20-23; Sunday, 10:55 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Bailey Smith, evangelist.

Shubuta (Clarke): March 20-23; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. nightly; Phillip Cooper, Sharon, Pa., evangelist; Mark Giles, Quitman, music; Timothy Myers, pastor.

Immanuel Church, Cleveland: April 25-27; William Judson "Bill" Hurt, pastor of First Church, Canton, and a former member of Immanuel, evangelist; Tom Mercier, minister of music, First Church, Prentiss, formerly of Immanuel, music.

Pine Grove, Dumas (Benton-Tippah): March 6-11; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Ed Gandy, Alcorn Association DOM, evangelist; Charlie Cooper, pastor, Rienzi, music; Philip D. Cooper, pastor.

Baptists ask that ban on Lebanon work be lifted

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Southern Baptists are asking U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to lift a ban that ousted all Americans—including 22 Foreign Mission Board missionaries—from Lebanon seven years ago.

The ban came as murders, kidnappings, bombings, and plane hijackings became frighteningly commonplace and threatened the lives of Americans more than U.S. diplomatic officials were willing to allow.

Foreign Mission Board President Jerry Rankin asked in a letter to Christopher that the travel ban be lifted—at least for those who want to perform religious, charitable, or humanitarian services.

Baptists' voice joins those of Arab Americans, many of whom want into Lebanon to share in profits from rebuilding as the country finds a measure of stability under Syrian occupation.

Last year, on Christopher's recommendation, President Bill Clinton extended the travel ban for a seventh year. Clinton's decision whether to allow the ban to expire or stretch into an eighth year is expected soon.

Since the ban was first imposed Southern Baptist missionaries have repeatedly been denied permission to live and work in Lebanon. Until they left in 1987, they had maintained a presence in the country since 1948.

CDC begins new outreach

Immanuel Church, Cleveland: April 24; celebrating 40 years; Harry Clark and James A. Hurt, former pastors of Immanuel Church, guest speakers.

Revival Results

Straight Bayou, Anguilla: Feb. 13-16; William Blackburn, Ft. Smith, Ark., evangelist; Kenny Daniels, Mt. View, Ark., music; Brad Banks, pastor; nine professions of faith; six rededications.

Mississippi Baptist Chemical Dependency Center (MBCDC), alcohol and drug treatment, announces its new Pastoral Outreach program. Designed to serve Baptist pastors and their congregations statewide, the program will be co-directed by MBCDC Chaplain/counselors Don Nerren and Danny Berry.

"MBCDC is committed to Christian healing," said the co-directors. "We recognize that addiction is a family disease."

CDC professionals said that chemically dependent young people in all socioeconomic levels need help. Nerren and Berry said

that young people need a support system within the church... "a safe place to gather and discuss their feelings and talk openly about their problems."

Nerren and Berry said the outreach program includes teaching intervention methods used with chemically dependent persons. "We will be a resource to provide pastors assistance in locating appropriate treatment programs for chemical dependence and other issues requiring counseling or therapy," they said.

For further information call Nerren or Berry at 1-800-962-6868 or 968-1102.

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RAYMOND ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH of Jackson seeks a part-time minister of Childhood Development. If interested, please send resume to Katy Shearer, Raymond Road Baptist Church, 4622 Raymond Road, Jackson, MS 39212.

CHRISTIAN CRUISES — To the Caribbean, Alaska, and Israel. HENRY BLACKABY — 5-Day Caribbean Cruise \$695. ALASKA — 7-Day \$1195. ISRAEL — 7-Day Mediterranean \$1495. CHRISTIAN SINGLES — 5-Day

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RETREAT AREA AVAILABLE: Includes swimming pool, tennis court, skating rink, fishing pond, and camping areas. Call (601) 775-3220.

USED COMMERCIAL KITCHEN equipment for sale: Complete setup. First Baptist Church, Brookhaven, MS. Smith or Sones, (601) 833-5118.

FOR BEST SEATS at THE GREAT PASSION PLAY in Eureka Springs, Ark., Reserve Now at KELLER'S COUNTRY DORM RESORT (For Groups of 12 or more)! Just \$30 Each includes Lodging, Meals, Taxes, & BEST (\$12.50) TICKETS! Call (501) 253-8418.

WANTED: BIVOCATIONAL Minister of Music willing to work with multiple music programs and outreach ministries. Opportunity for future full-time position possible. Please contact Jay Carpenter at (601) 371-3862.

FULL-TIME SECRETARY with emphasis in publications. Knowledge of Pagemaker on the Macintosh preferred. Send resume to: Rev. Dan Watts, Raymond Road Baptist Church, 4622 Raymond Rd., Jackson, MS 39212.

ATTENTION YOUTH GROUPS, choir groups, etc. Looking for a good fund-raising idea? Our new product will get results. For more information, call (601) 856-2787.

NEEDED: Host families for foreign exchange students. Call David (601) 587-9436.

PRIZE-WINNING Cajun dressing recipe, \$100. Send SASE to Everise Ruth, Rt. 2, Box 126, Calhoun City, MS 38916 (601) 628-8880.

SMALL ESTABLISHED Southern Baptist church in dynamic growing community seeks a bivocational pastor to lead in church growth resulting in full-time pastorate. Send resumes, until March 31, 1994, to: Pastor Search Committee, North Park Baptist Church, P.O. Box 414, Columbus, NE 68602-0414.

Community ministries result in high number of professions of faith

DALLAS (BP) — Four out of five Southern Baptist churches in Texas sponsor community ministries, and most of the programs result in professions of faith, according to a statewide survey.

Community ministries produced professions of faith in 62% of the churches responding to a 1993 survey conducted by the Baylor Center for Community Research.

The most common community ministry programs among Texas Baptist churches are those meeting basic human needs and those ministering to senior adults.

About two-thirds of the churches reported operating a food pantry, and three out of five provide financial assistance to people in need.

Nearly half of the churches — 47% — reported nursing home

ministries and 41% said they maintain emergency clothing closets. About three churches in 10 provide transportation for needy people.

The most popular family ministry is a program for senior adults, with two out of five churches reporting such a ministry. Fifteen percent of the churches reported delivering meals to homes.

Thirteen percent of the churches reported preschool education programs, 18% reported "Parents Day Out" ministries, 15% operate children's clubs, 11% provide child day care, and 10% sponsor teen clubs.

While one church out of five operates a jail or prison ministry, only 6% reported any specialized ministry for the families of prisoners.

About one church in five sponsors an exercise class, but other programs related to physical health are not as popular. Six percent of the reporting churches sponsor crisis pregnancy ministries. Two percent report medical clinics, AIDS ministries, health education programs or ministries to unwed parents, and 1% report dental clinics.

Only 1% of the churches indicated they sponsor a foster family program or an adult day care ministry. Ministry to victims of family violence also ranked low, with 2% reporting child abuse ministries and 3% reporting ministries to abused spouses.



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Names in the News

Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Costilow will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Sunday, Feb. 27. The celebration will be held from 2-4 p.m. in the fellowship hall of Liberty Church, Newton.

Dillard Woods of Winona, 91, died of heart failure after a brief illness on Jan. 20 at Tyler Holmes Memorial Hospital. Woods had been a member of First Church, Winona, for 84 years and only missed a total of 25 services. His duties at the church included head usher and treasurer for the Men's Bible Class.

Richard Sparks Jr. was recently ordained to the gospel ministry by Eastside Church, Pearl. Sparks currently serves as Eastside's minister of music. His previous place of service is Puckett Church.



Ethelyn Hester (front, second from left) was recently honored by First Church, Maben, upon her retirement after 18 years of service as treasurer. She was recognized with a plaque, roses, and corsage during the Sunday morning worship. The Ladies' Sunday School class hosted a reception in her honor in the afternoon. Randle Poss is pastor.

Yemen Times weekly newspaper praises Baptists' Jibla hospital

SANA'A, Yemen (BP) — Yemen's English-language newspaper has profiled the success of Southern Baptists' Jibla hospital in the wake of a highly publicized court case that threatened to close the hospital.

"The nation (should) be more than appreciative of Baptists and their help," the Yemen Times concluded after an interview with Southern Baptist representative William Koehn of Cimarron, Kan., the hospital administrator.

"The Jibla Baptist Hospital has been serving Yemen for almost three decades. By any standard at all, the Christians at the hospital are... religious and live by high... moral values."

The Times is a weekly newspaper read primarily by the business community in the Mideast nation. It emerged after Yemen declared a multiparty system and loosened reins on free speech about three years ago. The newspaper reportedly won a recent Supreme Court case in which it was accused of launching personal attacks against Yemen's president.

It is published by Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaq, a professor at the University of Sana'a, according to a Yemeni government spokesman in Washington, D.C. Al-Saqqaq conducted the interview with Koehn, who was pictured.

As a result of the court case last year, a judge ordered Koehn to close the hospital and leave the country. But the decision has not yet been enforced, and hospital officials have filed an appeal. The hospital remains open.

The case against the hospital stems from accusations 14 months ago that two men tore up the Koran — Islam's holy book — and threw it in the toilet because a doctor in the hospital told them to do so. Accusers said hospital workers were trying to force people to abandon Islam and believe in Christianity.

Accusers produced a videotape of the Koran incident, which

Southern Baptist officials say was staged.

Judge Ali Al-Baadani heard the case just before he won a seat in Yemen's legislature. Campaigning, he vowed to protect Yemen from foreigners, according to the Times.

"I was questioned by investigators for five hours," Koehn was quoted as saying. "I always told them that we were not doing any such thing."

"I was called to appear in court. But we realized it was not a real trial. It was like a show. The courtroom was full of media people, TV cameras, tape recorders. It was clear that everything was planned and prepared."

The hospital opened in 1968 under the leadership of Southern Baptist representative James Young, a physician. He and his wife June, a nurse, originally came to Yemen in 1964 to start a medical service.

But the government asked the Youngs, who retired in 1987, to build a hospital, and the people of Jibla provided a 99-year lease for a 22-acre hillside. The hillside is the site of a compound for the hospital, an outpatient clinic, and residences for about 60 people, including about 30 Southern Baptists. Nearly 200 Yemenis work there, too, the article said.

"People continue to come in large numbers for our services," Koehn told Al-Saqqaq. "The people trust us because they have known us for a long time."

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Miss. church tops for Lottie Moon

First Church, Jackson, has given the largest single-church gift yet received from across the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions, according to officials at the SBC Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va. The gift of over \$186,000 surpassed the church's last-year total of \$180,000, said Vicki Heath (second from left), Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) director at First Church. Congratulating Heath and First Church WMU President Linda Huff (second from right) are Bill Causey (left), executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and Frank Pollard (right), First Church pastor. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

New sponsorship crucial for Booklink program

By William H. Perkins Jr.

Supporters of the successful Booklink program are in the hunt for new funding after the program's major financial benefactor decided to pull out in March of this year.

"At present, there is no funding base, except for private donations," said Paul Harrell, director of the Mississippi Brotherhood Department and liaison to the National Fellowship of Baptist Educators, which manages the Booklink program.

Harrell said the program, which has shipped over 15 tons of books, journals, tracts, and audio cassettes worth almost \$195,000 since its inception in June 1988, has been funded by Books for the World, a ministry started by the late Owen Cooper of Yazoo City, former Southern Baptist Convention president and Mississippi Chemical Corp. founder.

The Books for the World funding will not be available in the future, Harrell said, creating the need for new sponsors.

"The bottom line is that this ministry will have to be curtailed until funding comes through. We are asking people with a heart for this ministry to help fund it," Harrell explained.

The program actually has its roots with Mississippi Baptists

through the Mississippi Educational Fellowship, Harrell said, with half the Booklink national shipping points located in the state.

National pastors (citizens of foreign countries called into the ministry) need good study materials. Mississippi Baptists should be sensitive to this need by donating to Booklink," he pointed out.

The program accepts donations of study materials, for example, from retiring pastors or survivors of deceased pastors who want to see their extensive religious libraries put to lasting use, Harrell said.

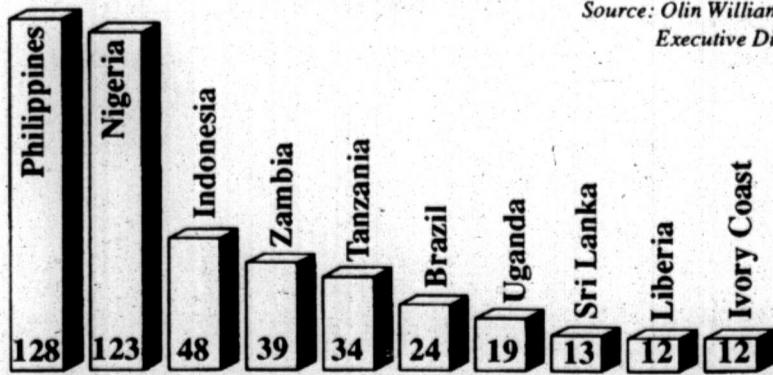
"Booklink is a good way for groups such as WMU, Royal Ambassadors, Girls in Action, Sunday School classes, and the like to get involved in missions funding. They can sponsor the mailing of a number of packages," he said.

The average package weighs about 11 pounds and costs approximately 72 cents per pound to mail, he added. Tax deductible contributions can also be made through the Mississippi Educational Fellowship, Harrell said.

For more information, contact the Brotherhood Department, MBCB, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800.

Booklink shipments

number of shipments per country
1988-present



Source: Olin Williams
Executive Dir.

Record participation expected in '94 World Changers projects

By Steve Barber

MEMPHIS (BP) — When the first group of World Changers takes saws, hammers, and paintbrushes in hand and heads out for a work site March 27, it will mark the fifth year for a way of "doing missions" that started with 135 youth from six Tennessee churches.

This year, more than 6,000 youth, collegians, and senior adults are expected to take part in World Changers work projects in 25 different locations across the United States and in Puerto Rico.

"The growth in the World Changers mission option has exceeded our greatest expectations, but I can't say I'm completely surprised," said James D. Williams, president of the Brotherhood Commission, sponsor of the annual projects. "I've said for a long time that the missions spirit is very much alive among our Southern Baptist people. This has proven to be a great outlet for it."

World Changers stresses "hands-on" missions involvement by participants through involvement in home construction and renovation work. The week-long projects generally are located in

"high need," low-income communities where most are living at or below the poverty level.

Work crews of 10 to 15 members from various churches spend Monday learning basic skills and then work together on building, renovation, and repair work the rest of the week.

The number of 1994 project locations is more than double last year's total of 12.

This year, seniors and college-age youth will become World Changers for the first time at four pilot projects. Collegians will gather at New Orleans March 27-April 2. Senior adults will work at Big Lake and Craig, Mo., northwest of Kansas City April 9-16 and April 16-23.

World Changers senior high projects, for those who have completed the ninth grade, will include Orlando, Fla., June 11-18 (during the Southern Baptist Convention); Shelby County (Memphis), Tenn., June 11-18; Orlando, Fla., June 11-18; Houston, June 11-18; Birmingham, Ala., June 18-25; Tuscaloosa, Ala., June 25-July 2; Poplar, Mont., June 25-July 2; and Danville, Va., June 25-July 2.

Also, Poplar, Mont., July 2-9;

Quitman County, Miss., July 2-9; Kansas City, Mo., July 16-23; Anderson County, Tenn., July 9-16 and July 16-23; Savannah, Ga., July 9-16 and July 16-23; Vicksburg, Miss., July 16-23; Juana Diaz, Puerto Rico, July 23-30; Lee County, S.C., July 30-Aug. 6; Shreveport, La., July 30-Aug. 6; and Murphy, N.C., July 30-Aug. 6.

World Changers junior high projects, for those who have completed the seventh or eighth grade, are scheduled for Memphis, June 20-25 and Dallas, Aug. 1-6.

Participants pay from \$235 per person for senior high participants to \$150 for seniors and collegiates. The Puerto Rico project (senior high only) is \$335. Transportation costs to the project location are not included.

To register for a project, contact World Changers at the Brotherhood Commission, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN 38104, or call (901) 272-2461. Participation forms and balances are due May 1 for June projects, June 1 for July projects, and four weeks prior to spring and fall projects.

Barber writes for the Brotherhood Commission.

H.R. 6

From page 3

amendment.

Defeating the entire bill is a "long, long shot," Farris said. It also will be difficult to pass the amendment, he said.

Miller "has nothing against home schools," according to a prepared statement from his office.

He "does not believe that his amendment affects home schools or private schools... (and) sees no reason to change it," the statement said. "If another House member chooses to offer an amendment on the floor to change it, Mr. Miller will review it and make a decision on his vote at that time."

If such is the case, an aide to Arney said, it is difficult to understand why Miller opposed Arney's amendment in the committee.

Phone calls to Miller's Washington office were not being accepted Feb. 17 or 18 because of the "volume of calls concerning H.R. 6 and its impact on home schooling," a recorded message said.

The Christian Action Commission (CAC) urges Mississippi Baptists to contact their representatives by phone regarding H.R. 6. The U.S. House of Representatives has scheduled a vote on or after Thursday, Feb. 24. "The bill is written with ambiguity.... The best rule is that ambiguous and poorly-written legislation should be opposed," said Paul Jones, CAC executive director-treasurer. Washington telephone numbers for Mississippi representatives are:

Rep. Jamie Whitten	1st District	(202) 225-4306
Rep. Bennie Thompson	2nd District	(202) 225-5876
Rep. G.V. Montgomery	3rd District	(202) 225-5031
Rep. Mike Parker	4th District	(202) 225-5865
Rep. Gene Taylor	5th District	(202) 225-5772

Other concerns expressed about the bill by pro-family organizations include:

— The encouragement, and possibly requirement, of Outcome-based Education, which critics say promotes values antithetical to Christians;

— The failure to prohibit school-based clinics from performing or promoting abortions or from passing out contraceptives, with no allowance for parental notification in such cases;

— The exclusion of a provision

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Uniform From death to life



By Doug Bain
Luke 23, 24

The four gospel writers provide a clue to how important are these last days of Jesus' life. One third of the total chapters are devoted to these final events, suggesting that the last part interprets the first part, placing the whole life in perspective. His whole life was a dying and a rebirth. He "carried the cross" all his life and the shadow of it was cast backward across all his years. We can approach "the last," knowing those events are the working out into finality of what had been present all along.

Crucified yet forgiving (23:32-34). It is scarcely possible to grasp, much less understand, the strength of Jesus here — crucified as a common low-life bandit, with two bandits on either side. The sense of injustice is overwhelming — the one who never did anything criminal, the only one who ever was truly good — guilty. In the midst of such blindness and injustice, he prays they be forgiven. How could he possibly pray that? Surely it does not mean "do not treat them as if behavior has no consequences." Jesus must be indicating that such gross injustice had not filled his own heart with poison and that those who crucified him were so totally blind that they could not see what they really were doing. Even at the last Jesus is not harboring recriminatory hostility and bitterness, not even against a disoriented religious community that actually rewards idiocy, instability, and self-glorying exhibitionism.

Responses from the cross (23:35-43). Three times Jesus is mockingly challenged to save himself (35, 37, 39). The incredible truth is that he would not preserve and protect himself at the expense of truth. In an age of assertiveness training, when the logo is "nobody steps on my turf," it would be well to see Jesus' willingness to absorb the evil of his religious countrymen and let good emerge from that evil. Rather than self-protective retaliation, he chooses redemptive transformational *agape* love. He would not even accept the wine vinegar offered him — no depressant to anesthetize his awareness. Even here he would not evade pain, but would embrace it. He would remain fully in control of his sensory alertness, fully responsive to those around him.

For all the spiritual darkness of Friday morning, a ray of sunshine breaks the clouds. One of those being crucified, in spite of his criminality, still has enough sensitive decency to see the injustice perpetrated on Jesus, and further, to "repent." Down to the last minute, it is never too late to make things right! And he does: "Whatever the nature of your kingdom, I want to have a part in it." And whatever the experience of Jesus immediately after death, the definite promise is that that very Friday they would see each other in paradise. Even more hope!

Crucifixion (23:44-46). What words could possibly comment adequately about the moment when death finally arrives! To those without the eyes of faith, it was a strange execution. But later to those with eyes of faith, it was God's sacrifice of his supreme representative. The sin of the world, the sinfulness of religious people, finally worked its will, and Jesus was victim.

Deep darkness at high noon! Whatever could be said about the meteorology and astronomy would never match the moral aspect of the darkness. Some in later generations really had no reason to think he was not human as well as divine — he thirsted, he felt abandoned. Neither did some need to think that when Jesus expired, so did God. Jesus commanded his spirit into the hands of the Father, which is what we do when it is all said and done.

Resurrection (24:33-34). Death is not termination — only transition! He is risen! We are risen!

Christianity is the only world religion, ancient, primal, modern, in which the "founder" died for all of sinful humankind, dying at the hands of his native religious community. And Christianity is certainly the only world religion in which the very existence of the new religion, its Scriptures, and its worshipping body testify to the resurrection of that "founder." Apart from such evidences, those who know him personally, who have identified with him in crucifixion, know also the power of his resurrection. Amen!

Bain is professor of biblical and related studies, Blue Mountain College.

Bible Book The miraculous feeding



By Dan Howard
John 6

Bread is delicious and satisfies our physical needs, but in these verses Jesus refers to himself as the bread of life who can satisfy our spiritual needs.

Feeding the five thousand (vv. 11-13). Jesus and his disciples had gone to the Sea of Galilee to a special place on a mountain. This was possibly a place which they frequently visited for rest and instruction. As Jesus sat down to teach, he saw a crowd of people coming toward them. The indication is that they were coming for physical reasons, such as healing, rather than spiritual reasons. Jesus asked Philip where they might get food to feed this crowd. Philip's response indicates that he thought it was a hopeless situation. Andrew found a boy in the crowd who had five barley loaves and two fish.

Barley was the cheapest of all bread and was considered the bread of the poor. The fish were probably no bigger than sardines, and had been pickled to preserve them.

Jesus had the people sit down and then took the food and expressed thanks to God for providing it. When situations seem impossible we can pray to the Father for guidance.

If Jesus took time to thank God for this food, we should be encouraged to take time to express thanks. Special things can happen when you offer thanks to God. On one occasion when my father-in-law was visiting us, we went out to eat. As we were about to say the blessing, our waiter approached the table. We were holding hands for the blessing and he asked if he could join us. We were shocked, but blessed by his desire to join us in giving thanks to the Lord.

After giving thanks, Jesus took the bread and fish and gave it to his disciples to pass it out to the people. The people ate as much as they wanted. The disciples then took up 12 baskets of leftovers.

Collecting leftovers was a common practice at Jewish feasts. This food was usually distributed to the servants. The fact that there were 12 baskets of leftovers indicates the greatness of the miracle and that we should be good stewards of the resources God has supplied.

Jesus: the bread of life (vv. 32-40). People continued to follow Jesus. They seemed to be looking for another sign from Jesus to prove his messiahship. They reminded Jesus that Moses had provided manna in the wilderness as a sign (vv. 30-31). They seemed to be saying, "If you want us to follow you, then provide a greater sign than Moses."

Jesus told them that it was God and not Moses who provided the manna. Jesus also stated that the manna was not true bread. True bread was that bread given by God the Father from heaven which sustains life eternally and satisfies spiritual hunger forever.

When the people heard this offer they wanted this bread (v. 34). In response to their request, Jesus said, "I am the Bread of Life." Jesus stated that he was "the Bread," therefore if they wanted life they must partake of him. That is, they must be willing to enter into a personal relationship with him. The word "life" in verse 35 means "the life," or "eternal life." A satisfaction of their spiritual hunger for an eternity is what they would gain in Christ. According to Jesus, the will of God is for every person who believes in him to be given eternal life.

Jesus questions the 12 disciples (vv. 66-69). Jesus had stated that unless a person "eats of the flesh of the Son of man and drinks of the blood," he could not have eternal life (vv. 53-54). Jesus was speaking spiritually and not of physically partaking of his body and blood. To some this was more than they could comprehend. When Jesus did not conform to the kind of Messiah they were expecting, they "walked with him no more" (v. 66).

Jesus turned to the 12 disciples and asked if they were also ready to leave. This question was asked in such a way that Jesus expected a "no" answer.

Peter responded for the 12. His response in verse 69 was a strong confession of their understanding of Jesus. He used the words "believe" and "know." Both are in the perfect tense indicating completeness. There was no question in their minds that Jesus was the one and only one sent from God as the pure and sinless Messiah.

Howard is the pastor of Woodville Church, Woodville.

Life and Work Rejoice!



By Billie Buckley
Luke 15

A thought recently came to me when I was watching one of those old John Wayne movies. Really, I wasn't watching it as much as I was listening to it. I figured out it wasn't the guns and horses and tough cowboys that made it exciting. It was the background music moving up and down the scales, flashing back and forth from one scene to another. When the rain fell, it was soft and gentle with a slight strumming touch. Never was it silent.

While listening to that tremendous background of music, this thought suddenly occurred to me, "We all need music in the background of our lives as we move through this journey." Rejoicing for a Christian is the background music of our souls. This lesson about the prodigal son is filled with note after note of meaningful background music.

Homecoming background music (vv. 20-21). The lost son returned home, and his father welcomed him. Likewise, God always welcomes the sinner who comes to him in repentance. Let's look at the word "welcome" and consider these truths.

Jesus came to welcome us into a personal relationship with God. It is a warm, wonderful welcome into eternal life. This invitation welcomes us to enter the doors of forgiveness, healing, and hope. There is no confusion here, but a simple understanding that Jesus wants to forgive our sins and welcome us home.

Celebration background music (vv. 22-24). The father ordered clothes to be given to his son and a celebration to be held in his honor. Likewise, believers have a reason to celebrate when others come home to God.

Today, God gives us marching orders, too. He means for us to make an impact in the world where we live. This impact is not to be brought about by force or by duty, but by a celebration! What do we celebrate? We celebrate Christ — his life, his message, his church, his presence. Because of our personal celebration experience, we can then rejoice when others come home to celebrate.

Static sounds that drown out the music (vv. 25-30). When the older son heard about the celebration, he refused to participate and complained to his father. Likewise, some believers will not join in the joy of a homecoming experience today. Their reasons may include jealousy.

Surely, jealousy is one of the loudest static sounds we hear today. In fact, it becomes so loud at times that all the background music is drowned out and lost. The Bible lists jealousy as a sinful personality problem that leads to anger and complaining. This in turn hurts those around us, even as the older son hurt his father. Our complaints hurt our Heavenly Father in the same manner.

Background music of a restructured repentance (vv. 31-32). The sons' father explained the necessity and appropriateness of celebrating such an occasion. This parable invites all of us as believers to join the heavenly host in rejoicing over a restructured life resulting from true repentance.

God still wants us to stop running away from him and hiding from him as the prodigal son did. He is always found running toward us when we return to him.

His son is our example. He never ran away from anything, including the cross. It is by the way of that cross that we can "Rejoice in the Lord always: again I will say, Rejoice."

For Christians it is important that we hear the background music played silently in the lives of others. How do we do this?

It begins with our coming to our heavenly Father and abiding in him. Then we pray, read, hear, and sing in his presence. This presence reduces the timidity and tiredness that makes us want to stay in our house humming our own tune.

Also, his presence makes me sensitive to your need of laughter and lightness to release the heavy pounding music of your stress and sorrow. It refreshes us so that we can become helpful and useful and tender. When he is our guest, we have an ear for the background music in others.

Buckley is a member of Petal-Harvey Church, Petal.

First Person...

His "good bed" in Romania replaced by one in America

By Tim Palmer

It's a metal crib, one of 15 plain metal cribs in the room where the little boys at the Special Garden orphanage sleep every night. I photographed the roomful of cribs when I went to Baia Mare, Romania, to get my son Andrei.

Now I look at the photo when I want to remember the life we took him from, in the hope and faith that we can give him a better life. Andrei looks at the photo differently. "It's a good bed," he says, pointing to the crib that was his.

Andrei is 6 years old and until mid-December he had never known life outside an orphanage. In his new life, he sleeps in the bottom bunk in a bedroom he shares with his brother, 8-year-old Geoffrey.

Sometimes Andrei misses the friends he left behind at Special Garden. My wife Catherine and I try to honor his grief, even as our hearts ache to see him feeling sad.

But children, thank God, are resilient. Soon the twinkle returns to Andrei's grey-blue eyes and he's back having fun.

He has a firm hold on our hearts. From the moment we met each other in a hallway at the orphanage, when a nurse told him I was his "tata" (father) and he would go with me to America, Andrei has been my son.

We weren't sure Andrei would know how to have fun. We weren't too sure of anything when we set out on the road to adoption, except that we wanted God's will to be done.

Andrei entered our consciousness one day last year when Cathy

got a phone call from her friend and fellow missionary kid Janice Duffy in Tennessee. Janice and her husband Roger had adopted a baby girl out of Romania in 1991.

Now they were going to try to adopt her older sister, Janice reported — and guess what? There was an older brother, too.

After agreeing among the three of us that adopting an older child would have many advantages — he could play baseball with us, for one — we turned our attention to Andrei. We and the Duffys worked through Nashville-based Small World Ministries, one of six U.S. adoption agencies authorized to do adoptions out of Romania.

If we could quickly get certified to adopt in Missouri, get started on U.S. government autho-

"From the moment we met each other in a hallway at the orphanage, when a nurse told him I was his "tata" (father) and he would go with me to America, Andrei has been my son."

— Tim Palmer

rization to adopt overseas, and fill out, fingerprint, sign, notarize, mail, overnight this form, and that document and the other file... maybe we could have Andrei home for Christmas.

And that's exactly what happened. Roger Duffy and I spent nine days in Romania — two

more days than planned — and we arrived back in America Dec. 21 with Andrei and his sister Andrea.

Before our trip, the best advice I got concerning international adoption came from Sandy McLaughlin of Holt International Children's Services in Bucharest. I had asked her whether it was feasible to complete an adoption during a one-week stay in Romania.

"It is important to be flexible and patient," she advised. "Tight schedules tend to cause a lot of undue stress in the adoption process."

When we arrived in St. Louis on Dec. 21, our welcoming party was small — Cathy, Geoffrey, and Cathy's parents, Harold and Betty Cummins. But dozens of others shared the moment with us in spirit — people who had prayed for us, helped us, encouraged us.

I came to realize that what we were doing struck a chord in the hearts of people who love children.

And people in Romania love children, I discovered. Reports on American television of deplorable conditions at some orphanages have given the country a bad name, but as Sandy McLaughlin said, "They're doing the best they can with what they have — and things have improved."

Small World representative Tudose "Doru" Diaconu talked about his country as we watched the Transylvanian countryside roll by on our 12-hour train ride from Bucharest to Baia Mare. Former dictator Nicolae Ceausescu had decided Romania should arrive at a population of 30 million by the year 2000. To that end, he outlawed abortion and made birth control unavailable.

"The official policy was to have a lot of children in the family, and if not in the family, in the orphanages." Ceausescu's reasoning, Doru explained, was that more young people in the work force would mean a better life for retired people.

Today Ceausescu is four years



SAY "CHEESE" — At the Special Garden orphanage in Romania, 6-year-old Andrei shares one of his first smiles for a camera with his new father, Tim Palmer, managing editor of *Word & Way*, the Baptist newspaper in Missouri. Palmer went to Romania in December so that he and his wife Cathy could adopt Andrei. Many Romanian children languish in orphanages because of practices that began with government policies during the communist years. (BP photo)

in the grave and Romania has 249 orphanages. At Special Garden, Adriana Herman is the doctor for 120 youngsters ages 3 to 8.

The first words she spoke to Roger and me went a long way toward easing my fears that the children had been in the care of uncaring people.

"It is hard for us to give you these children," she said.

We assured her they would be loved and cherished, and they are. And we promised to try to get her an othoscope — an instrument to check for ear infections that no American children's physician would be without.

What about the children who are still there? They seemed happy enough, and the fact that Andrei sometimes misses the orphanage reminds us that to him it was home. He looks at his friends' pictures and says their names, laughing at certain ones.

I'm afraid they'll pass from his memory, and I suppose they must, to make room for new friends, for a whole world of knowledge opening up to him as an American kindergartener.

And of course we've entered a couple of new worlds ourselves,

as adoptive parents. Some people feel compelled to express their reservations or even give dire warnings about the "issues" we will have to deal with in the future.

Yes, we know the first years of a child's life are supposed to be the most important. But if everyone were afraid to adopt a child older than age 2, all those children would be consigned to a life without a family. They would miss out on knowing a parent's love, the first model for God's love.

I don't think that's what our heavenly Father had in mind. We're trusting in the sufficiency of his grace.

A few nights ago Cathy was tucking Andrei in and she asked him, "What about this bed? Is this a good bed?"

He looked at her and he looked around him and he replied, "It's a good bed."

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Area Media Library Conference

The 1994 State Church Media Library (CML) officers met recently to plan for the Annual State Church Media Library Conference to be held Oct. 21-22 at First Church, Columbus. Those officers are (left to right): front row, Joan Beasley, Wesson, president; Billie Breland, Cleveland, vice president; Carolyn Harris, Meridian, treasurer; Margaret Perkins, Columbus, program chairman; second row, Farrell Blankenship, Jackson, state CML and MBCB Broadcast Services director; Faye Miller, Hattiesburg, TACMO (The Associational Church Media Organization) representative; Juanita Hight, Louisville, publicity chairman; and Dixie Hicks, Greenville, historian.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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DEQRS HIGM IMU:DETU.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Romans Ten:Nine.

Baptist Record

February 24, 1994